



## Parks & Sustainable Communities

Also this issue:

**LEAP:** an interactive toolkit on sustainable procurement  
Page 3

**eg Magazine:** now available inline  
Page 3

**PIMMS** project on mobility management  
Page 4

**LEPT** – The London European Partnership for Transport  
Page 4

**New European Funding Opportunities** to be launched in January 2007  
Page 5



**Parks are now at the top of the political agenda.**

**Realisation of the vital role parks and open spaces play in making communities sustainable places in which to live and work has led to a raised awareness and government funding for a range of projects around the UK.**

The many benefits of parks have now been quantified by CABE Space and other influential public bodies, and include an increase in property values in the vicinity of well-managed open space, inward investment, better health, a reduction in the use of motorised transport for recreational purposes, and an increase in native biodiversity.

Global to Local are offering two new consultancy products which can be tailored to the needs of individual local authorities:

- a strategy package which includes an assessment of need and an action programme aimed at putting open space provision at the heart of local communities
- a seminar programme designed to bring managers up to date with the very latest examples of best practice from around the UK and Europe. This includes a practical toolkit package to ensure that managers are equipped to put their councils at the cutting edge of open space planning.

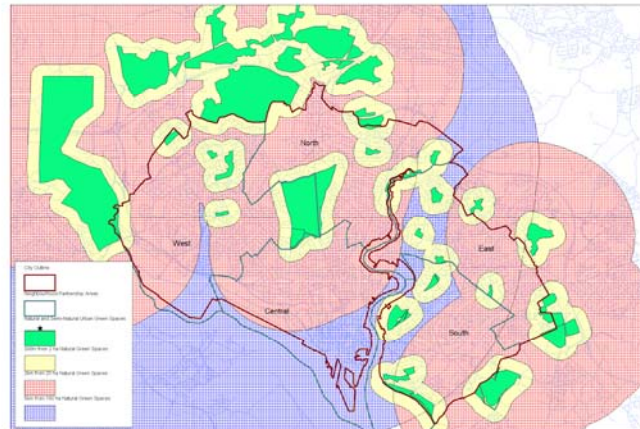
See page 2 for details.

# Quality Parks for Sustainable Communities

- a strategy package

Local authorities are obliged to audit not only the quality but also the quantity and distribution of its open spaces in accordance with the Government's Policy Planning Guidance Note No. 17 (PPG17).

Many councils have already completed this task. Others have still to do so, or in our experience are finding that the study they have completed does not provide them with a logical framework on which to improve the distribution and quality of their open space, and in so doing make local communities more sustainable.



*Global to Local* has extensive experience in this field, and can provide the following services:

- A health check of open spaces using PPG17 and "Green Flag Award" criteria
- Plotting the distribution of open space, having defined suitable local catchment standards
- Carrying out market research and building a consensus with local stakeholders
- Defining suitable open space strategies to address current and future needs and demands.

So whether you need to review your open space for the first time, or whether you need help in producing a suitable strategy, *Global to Local* can provide all the professional help you need.

## Best Practice Management of Parks

- a series of seminars

*Global to Local* will be running parks seminars which aim to bring together both client and service provider in the New Year of 2007. The objectives for the seminars are to:

1. Combine the expertise of both council officers and grounds maintenance contractors in order to consider ways in which parks and open spaces can be made more sustainable
2. Examine best practice from around the UK and Europe
3. Draft action plans which suit the needs of participants
4. Complement initiatives such as Green Flag and PPG17 in ensuring that parks meet the needs of local communities
5. Enable local authorities and contractors to meet their environmental aims and objectives.

For further information contact: [peter.joyce@globaltolocal.com](mailto:peter.joyce@globaltolocal.com)

# LEAP – an interactive toolkit for green procurement

*Global to Local* is pleased to announce that the European Project LEAP (Local Authority EMAS and Procurement) is now completed and the final toolkit was launched at Eco-Procura in Barcelona on 20-22 September 2006.

For the past three years *Global to Local* has worked with the LEAP Project partners to share experiences and best practice to develop models for joint procurement and an interactive toolkit.

## Key Project Outcomes

The tools and guidance produced have been combined into 'The LEAP Toolkit' which is available on-line at [www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org](http://www.leap-gpp-toolkit.org) and is also available on CD\_ROM.

If anyone would like a free copy please send a 95p stamp-addressed padded envelope to Diane Smith, Global to Local Ltd, 59 Westbourne Street, Hove, BN3 5PF.

## Why link green procurement with environmental management systems?

Despite the fact that green purchasing has been practiced by some pioneers in Europe for over 10 years, change does not come easily. Action needs to be co-ordinated and follow a systematic process.

In most European public authorities procurement is a relatively decentralised process involving many individuals in different departments. Even where central purchasing units exist, some responsibility will rest with staff in other departments. In such situations the implementation of green procurement requires effective communication between and within departments and clear priorities need to be set. In authorities where an environmental management system is in place there exists a useful framework for co-ordinating environmental improvements. Procurement is an activity with the potential to have a huge impact (good and bad) on the environment and it makes sense to integrate green procurement actions into environmental management systems.

---

## eg magazine

Issue 0506 of eg magazine is now available on line and in printed format. Please contact [diane.smith@globaltolocal.com](mailto:diane.smith@globaltolocal.com) for a limited trial access to the website. This unique journal has over 500 news items on national, regional and local Government reports and papers as well as news and information on projects, publications and initiatives from NGOs, voluntary organisations and the private sector.

The latest issue has articles on:

- Local Area Agreements – should sustainable development staff get involved?
- Sweden 2020: an oil-free zone?
- Barnsley's biomass success
- EMS networks

PLUS 28 pages of sustainable development news, policy, reports, initiatives, strategies, case studies and consultations.

## **The PIMMS project**

The PIMMS project is funded under the EU's Regional Programme, or rather a small element that promotes inter-regional cooperation.

The main objective of "Partner Initiatives for the development of Mobility Management Services" is to identify examples of good practice in mobility management, and to explore the extent to which they can be transferred to other areas or even other activities.

The project has therefore just completed the assembly of a database of good practice, and the eight partners have undertaken a 'self-benchmarking' exercise to assess their own performance when compared to the 210 known examples of good practice.

The main phases of the project started in Dec-05: three 'cycles' of Study Tours and Staff Exchanges, where the partners send delegations to visit each other (and other cities too).



*Congestion charging control room in Stockholm*

The visits ensure that the key decision-makers can meet each other and be reassured that the initiative that they are considering has been successfully implemented elsewhere. Thus Director talks to Director, politician to politician etc. This is particularly important for mobility management, because it's not a very sexy topic (whoever won an election on the platform of increasing bus reliability?) but can be contentious (remember the actor who said that all urban cyclists were bastards?). The first cycle has now been completed, and partners have reported their experiences via a newsletter and other material.

*Global to Local* provides the project Secretariat for PIMMS, the client is LEPT (the London European Partnership for Transport): the good practice database and copies of newsletters, can be found at [www.pimms-eu.org](http://www.pimms-eu.org), and enquiries should be emailed to [secretariat@pimms-eu.org](mailto:secretariat@pimms-eu.org).

---

## ***The London European Partnership for Transport***

*Global to Local* is delighted to see the launch of LEPT; having assisted at its conception Tim Cordy, a director of *Global to Local*, was present at its birth: an event at the Cabinet War Rooms [*compose your own joke*] in September.

LEPT could serve as a model for others. In brief the story is that an informal group of officers from London Boroughs were networking to share information about and promote the profile of mobility management. In this they were supported by Transport for London, which is the strategic funder for local transport plans. Bu they were wondering how to do more.

*Global to Local* was commissioned to review the level of interest within London, assess the opportunities in Europe, and make recommendations. We were clear that the interest and opportunity were there, and recommended accordingly. TfL took up the challenge, and LEPT (hosted by LB Bromley) was born. A four-person team is now in place, and their website at [www.lept-eu.org](http://www.lept-eu.org) states that their objective is "to improve the level of communication, cooperation and investment that exists between London, London boroughs and the European Union".

# New European funding opportunities

2007 marks a substantial change in European funding programmes, responding to:

- the expanded EU;
- a clearer set of priorities for the EU.

Two 'mega-programmes' will be launched in Jan-07.

The Structural and Cohesion Fund bring together the old ERDF and ESF programmes. They are primarily about making the EU both more competitive and more equal, with huge resources being made available to regions which fall well below the EU average (the 'convergence' objective). There should also be some €s for cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation, and these may offer the most obvious opportunities for action on sustainable development. However, overall there will be less for Member States such as the UK. Here are a few thoughts for sustainability entrepreneurs:

- (1) the programmes will be largely run at regional level: during 2006 Member States have been consulting about priorities etc, and during Nov and Dec these will be brought together into a series of National Strategic Reference Frameworks and signed off by Brussels. Thereafter almost all the programme management takes place at regional level; so WE RECOMMEND that you find out what is happening locally.
- (2) there will be 'extra marks' (every bid is evaluated to death) for inter-regional cooperation, so it would be a smart idea to develop some friendships, especially in the new Member States. TIP 1: there's a European network for every interest group you can imagine; TIP 2: G2L has lots of contacts.
- (3) the main themes do NOT include sustainability, even though this remains a stated EU priority. But the funds are so huge that there will be opportunities for those who are crafty, especially if they have lobbied hard at regional level to give at least some priority to sustainable development.

Research and technological development is the other big programme. The focus of "FP7" (there have been six predecessors!) is to foster the knowledge-economy; so the priority here is in providing large sums of money to develop research ideas to the point where they can be taken to market.

A complex work programme has been developed on the basis of consultation, and is available for download at:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home.html>

Here there are some priorities that relate directly both to sustainable development, and to the competencies of local authorities:

- Energy, with the focus placed on renewable energy sources and a significant lowering of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Environment (including climate change) dealing with ways to predict climate change and the development of novel approaches towards earth observation.
- Transport (including aeronautics) developing environmentally-friendly and efficient

OUR RECOMMENDATION: ambitious local authorities should develop trans-national consortia to prepare bids during 2007. *Global to Local can help!* We are always happy to advise municipalities and others who are considering joining Europe (see story on page 4 about LEPT); we can help design bids, find partners, manage projects: we have a good track record of success. In the next few months we will be developing, with Spanish partners, an EU funding portal.

For more information contact [tim.cordy@globaltolocal.com](mailto:tim.cordy@globaltolocal.com).