

Oldham Partnership Press Release

20th December 2005

AP/201205

OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP SHORT LISTED FOR NATIONAL AWARD

The Oldham Partnership has been short listed in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Sustainable Communities Awards 2006.

The Oldham Partnership was announced as one of the five finalists in the Partnership Award for Sustainable Communities category, which is being sponsored by DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

The winners of the Award will be announced at a luncheon in London, on 2nd February 2006.

The Award focused on the Oldham Partnership's commitment to build strong, confident communities in the Borough – economically, socially, physically and environmentally. This will help the Partnership realise its vision for the Borough, by making 'Oldham – a place where everyone is proud to belong'.

The Partnership's ability to achieve this vision has been supported by an impressive number of community led initiatives, which have been inspired by training programmes such as Bridging The Gap and Building Good Relations.

The results of these programmes are already evident in successful initiatives such as the Festival of Diversity, the Green Olympics and Neighbourhood Solutions – an innovative approach to neighbourhood and community management that cuts across traditional service boundaries.

Chairman of the Oldham Environment Partnership and Chair of the Oldham Partnership Steering Group, Bill Edwards said: "One of the challenges that the Partnership faces is to deliver these projects – along with the other goals outlined in the Community Strategy – in a sustainable manner."

"That means that we have to look at the long-term impact of our actions, in addition to the immediate effects. Put simply, its not just what we do, it's how we do it that's important."

Chief Executive of Oldham Primary Care Trust and member of the Oldham Partnership Executive Gail Richards said: "Oldham deserves to be recognised at a national level for the excellent progress that it is making."

"The Oldham Partnership is beginning to deliver real change for Oldham's residents. We can cite the examples of University Centre Oldham (a key milestone in the Oldham Beyond vision), the award winning Cottoning On Project, and the Festival of Diversity as factors which have started to improve the quality of life for the Borough's residents."

“The fact that we have been short listed for a national award is further confirmation that the Partnership is moving in the right direction.”

“It also reinforces the changing perception of Oldham, as a Borough that is able to compete nationally with any other region.”

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For further information please contact Adam Patterson, Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator at Oldham Partnership on 0161 615 5038, or email adam.patterson@oldhampartnership.org.uk

**More information on the awards can be found on the Sustainable Communities Awards 2006 website:
www.sustainablecommunities2006.com**

NOTES TO EDITOR

The Oldham Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Borough of Oldham.

The Partnership brings together the various groups in Oldham – the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors – to ensure that they work together, and achieve more than they could individually.

The Oldham Partnership is supported by the Government’s Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

For further information on the Oldham Partnership, please visit www.oldhampartnership.org.uk

