



REPORT TO SOCIAL WORK AND HOUSING COMMITTEE – 6 JUNE 2013

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMES FOR SCOTLAND: AREA BASED SCHEME (HEEPS: ABS)

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 **Note that a bid for £4.4m has been submitted to the Scottish Government for funding through HEEPS: ABS in order to install energy efficiency measures in private sector housing which will help to eradicate fuel poverty as far as reasonably practicable by 2016. A verbal update will be given on the outcome of the bid.**
- 1.2 **Agree to future reports being reported to Committee on the progress of the projects, and confirming the outcome of the bid.**

2 Background/Discussion

- 2.1 The objective of HEEPS: ABS is to upgrade Scotland's housing stock, tackle fuel poverty; to reduce carbon emissions; to lever Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding and to support the local economy and sustainable local economic development.

ECO was introduced in January 2013 to reduce the UK's energy consumption and support people living in fuel poverty. It does this by funding energy efficiency improvements and is used alongside HEEPS: ABS funding to deliver measures. ECO funding is available for eligible measures across all tenures.

- 2.2 A total of £60m is available for area based schemes, this is made up of two distinct parts:

The Core Allocation Programme (CAP) element (£30m)
The Proposals for Additional Funding (PAF) element (£30m)

- 2.3 The criteria for both elements of the programme are the same; dividing the programme ensures that all councils have a core allocation based on a needs-based assessment while enabling the Scottish Government to provide additional funds to councils who are in a position to deliver larger scale and/or more ambitious projects which will achieve the key objective of the HEEPS: ABS.
- 2.4 HEEPS: ABS funding is for the private sector element of schemes.
- 2.5 Indicative allocations were distributed in March 2013, with Aberdeenshire Council being awarded a core allocation of £1,275,000.

- 2.6 Councils were invited to submit proposals for funding by 19 April 2013; the appraisals of proposals will be completed by 23 May 2013, with offers of grants distributed by week commencing 27 May 2013.
- 2.7 Aberdeenshire Council have submitted a funding bid for £4.4m; the funding is for proposed external wall insulation projects for a total of 884 private sector properties, including mixed tenure schemes. The Fuel Poverty Map 2005 indicates that the areas we have chosen are “most at risk” of fuel poverty. Due to the significant increase in fuel prices, it would be reasonable to assume this has greatly increased over the last few years. Areas within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) datazones for Aberdeenshire which identifies the most deprived areas have also been chosen.
- 2.8 The Councils SHQS delivery plan aims to ensure all housing will achieve reasonable energy efficiency standards by 2015, although HEEPS:ABS funding will be used for private sector housing, a commitment has been given to work in partnership with utility companies to deliver energy efficiency measures in both social and private housing.
- 2.9 Funding from HEEPS:ABS would allow us to continue to contribute to improving the energy efficiency of homes, assist in reducing fuel poverty and produce carbon savings which will meet Aberdeenshire Council’s strategic priorities.
- 2.10 The majority of other Local Authorities have asked for less funding and our application is ambitious given that the funding must be spent by 31 March 2014.
- 2.11 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Corporate Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with the content.

3 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 1 and no impact has been identified.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Housing & Social Work



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity ("activity" is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions).	
Service	Housing & Social Work
Section	Strategic Planning & Delivery
Title of the activity etc.	Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland:Area Based Schemes
Aims of the activity	To obtain funding from the Scottish Government to upgrade private sector housing in order to tackle fuel poverty, to reduce carbon emissions, to lever Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding (for all tenures) and to support the local economy and sustainable local economic development.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Elaine Murray, Fuel Poverty Development Officer/ Mel Booth, Team Leader Private Sector

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment.	
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	The Fuel Poverty Strategic Outcome Statement and Action Plan
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	We have consulted with Asset Management to identify projects of mixed tenure schemes in areas where the property types have been determined as energy inefficient. HEEPS:ABS has been discussed with members of the Fuel Poverty Strategic Outcome Group.
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	We have been in discussion with SCARF, our delivery partners, who will provide a range of enabling and administrative services.

<p>External data (census, available statistics).</p>	<p>The Fuel Poverty Map 2005 indicates that the areas we have chosen are “most at risk” of fuel poverty. Due to the significant increase in fuel prices, it would be reasonable to assume this has greatly increased over the last few years. We have also chosen areas within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) datazones for Aberdeenshire which identifies the most deprived areas in Scotland.</p> <p>Fuel poverty is monitored through the Scottish Housing Condition Survey (SHCS). The SHCS is a rolling programme of surveys carried out by the Scottish Government. The data is published every year based on the last three years data sets. The most recent data sets available are from 2009-2011 and show that by tenure, 26% of Social Housing households and 38% of private sector households in Aberdeenshire are living in fuel poverty.</p>
<p>Other (general information as appropriate).</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	Clarification on individual households circumstances are required to identify whether or not they are living in fuel poverty. The areas have been chosen by construction type and at this time, the circumstances of the individual households are unknown.

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:
	We will undertake an assessment, in conjunction with SCARF, of each individual household's circumstances to establish if they are living in fuel poverty. This will then be followed up, after the measures have been installed, to determine if there has been a reduction in fuel poverty and/or and increase in affordable warmth.	Ongoing
	We will be able to maximise take up of the scheme through using SCARF as our delivery partner. SCARF will also be able to make direct referrals to ESSac and the HEAT team. As the advisors will be fully trained, they will be able to offer a holistic approach to reducing fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency.	Ongoing

Stage 5: Are there potential impacts on protected groups? Please complete for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger			Yes	
Age – Older			Yes	
Disability			Yes	
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			Yes	
Religion or Belief			Yes	
Gender – male/female			Yes	
Pregnancy and maternity			Yes	

Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			Yes	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			Yes	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			Yes	

Stage 6: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)	Negative (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on those with protected characteristics you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.		

Stage 7: Have any of the affected groups been consulted?	
If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?	No

Stage 8: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?		
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Mitigating Steps	Timescale

Stage 9: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups?

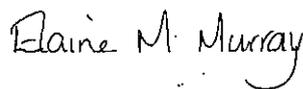
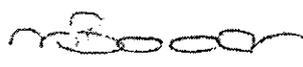
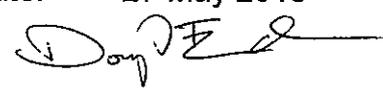
<p>These should be included in the action plan.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
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<p>Stage 10: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?</p>
<p>N/A</p>

<p>Stage 11: What equality monitoring arrangements will be put in place?</p>	
<p>These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).</p>	

<p>Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?</p>	
<p>Please complete the appropriate box/boxes</p>	<p>1 No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.</p>
	<p>The funding bid is to enable energy efficiency measures to be installed in energy inefficient properties. As it is possible for none or all of the protected groups to be living in these types of properties, no negative impacts have been identified.</p>
	<p>2 Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.</p>
	<p>3 The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen</p>

<p>* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.</p>
<p></p>

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.			
Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Housing & Social Work, Strategic Planning & Delivery	
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland:Area Based Schemes (if appropriate)	
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Elaine Murray Position: Fuel Poverty Development Officer Date: 14 May 2013 Signature: 	Name: Mel Booth Position: Team Leader. Private Sector Date: 14 May 2013 Signature: 
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Date:	
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Douglas Edwardson Position: Head of Housing Date: 27 May 2013 Signature: 	Name: Position: Date:
	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee. e.g. Social Work and Housing Committee.	Date:	
7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: eia@abdnshire	Date:		
(Equalities team to complete) Has the completed form been published on the website? YES/NO		Date:	

