

**Economic & City Development Overview &
Scrutiny Committee**

29th January 2013

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Update Report – ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review’

Summary

1. This report gives an update on the currently dormant ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’ Scrutiny Review. It advises Members what has been happening whilst the review has been on hold and asks that Members indicate whether they still wish to continue with this review.

Background

2. In July 2012 Members received an update from Officers advising them of the work being completed by Officers whilst the Council were awaiting the outcome of the Government’s consultation on the Green Deal.

Commitments

3. Members can be advised that in line with the paper received in July 2012 the following actions have been completed or are ongoing:
 - The extension of the Local Advice service operated by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership on behalf of the Council until 31st March 2013 which complements the National Advice Service but to also give local residents information about local schemes in particular the local Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) scheme
 - CERT funding has been extended until February 28th 2013 and we have worked hard with the Yorkshire Energy Partnership to ensure that York Residents can take full advantage of the available funding.

The scheme is being promoted by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership and York private sector householders have received 1205 measures. This equates to more than £341k worth of funding which has been drawn down. Members may want to note that nearly 1100 customers have made referrals following an advert in Your Voice in November 2012. It is anticipated that as a result a further 700 measures will be installed in to customers' homes.

- The completion of the CESP programme in the Hull Road area of the city. This area of the city was the only eligible area in York which could take advantage of this scheme. We can advise that the following measures have been completed across all tenures:

| Scheme | Loft Insul. | Cavity Insul. | Solid Insul. | Heating | PV panels |
|--------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| CESP | 221 | 19 | 30 | 47 | 32 |

- The successful bid for Department of Health funding - in November City of York Council in partnership with Age UK, York and Yorkshire Energy Partnership successfully bid for Winter Warmth Funds to assist and give advice to older people on how to keep warm over the winter period. A grant of 18K ensured that the partnership could offer a range of measures to vulnerable older people.
- The successful bid through the Leeds City Region which accessed funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to pilot three schemes which tested key elements of the new Green Deal framework. We are currently working in three areas in the city helping private residents to insulate hard to treat homes. The owners of the homes will be offered loans to top up any utility subsidy that they can obtain to install external wall insulation. Residents are being helped by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership to identify the need for the work by the provision of a free Energy Performance Certificate assessment and are being helped through the Planning process.
- The successful bid for funding under the recent DECC Local Competition. Please follow the link below for more information about these funding streams:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding_ops/lacomp/lacomp.aspx

- This bid was successful for two streams of funding, one to help vulnerable householders keep warm this winter and the second to help residents to set up collective switching schemes
 - (i). The first competition was developed in partnership with York, North Yorkshire District Authorities and the York Energy Partnership securing £447k worth of funding to install heating systems and insulation in the homes of vulnerable local residents who are struggling with rising energy bills. Members should note that this scheme was significantly over-subscribed, with 136 applications involving the majority of local Councils in England requesting over £60million of support. York who led on this bid have been awarded the full ask, however there is significant pressure to ensure that the scheme is delivered before the 31st March 2013
 - (ii). The second competition again saw the Council with regional partners CO2Sense and CED, secure just under £300,000 to pilot six community energy collective switching schemes in the region (including one pilot for York). The pilot, not launched in York until February 2013, will target those in fuel poverty (but will be open to anyone in York). DECC's £5million fund was offered to help local authority and third sector organisations in Great Britain to help set up collective purchasing of energy in their local areas, and also encourage residents to work together to switch energy suppliers and get a better tariff. The aim of this scheme was to encourage consumers to group together and use market power to negotiate lower energy bills and save money. York's pilot will see a local energy smart club set up through existing communities, and members will be able to switch energy suppliers and on average could save up to £115 on their fuel bills through the switch. The club will support members with the switch which will be arranged through partners CED and Which? The club will also offer other energy efficiency measures available through current CYC schemes and will offer wider greener lifestyles behavioural change support. More information will be circulated to members in the coming weeks once plans have been finalised.

Green Deal

4. Work is still ongoing finalising a Leeds City Region (LCR) Green Deal Model which will deliver Green Deal packages across the LCR area.

The model's finances have now been finalised, and to date papers on the proposed model, financing options and programme development (including procurement and delivery options) have been circulated across LCR Leader groups and panels. In order to proceed with this option, all Local Authorities, including York will, once approved by the Leaders' groups of LCR, need to fund the next stages of the process and investigate potential for prudentially borrowing money to support the programme. Permission amongst LCR Leaders and various panels is still ongoing. Due to these delays CYC is still evaluating this option for York. It is likely that decisions relating to York's continued involvement in the LCR model will need to be determined at the latest by late spring 2013. A paper to Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Cabinet is envisaged before then. In the meantime York continues to deliver a DECC funded pilot offering solid wall insulation to up to 50 homes in York. This pilot will provide invaluable insight into the forthcoming Green Deal and especially help to assist planning teams understand some of the planning issues that may arise from the Green Deal.

Consultation

5. No consultation has taken place since July 2012. However Members may remember at the landlord fair in May 2012 landlords and agents were advised of this scrutiny review and asked if they would like to take part once it recommenced. To date there have been no responses.

Options

6. Members are asked to note the report and indicate when and if they wish to recommence this review.

Analysis

7. Members have been kept up to date on a regular basis about what has been happening in relation to this review and more specifically in relation to the progress of the Green Deal and why there have been delays with this scrutiny review. In light of the information contained within this report Members are asked to give consideration to how they wish to proceed with this review in the future, if at all.
8. The original remit for the review was to:

'Review Council Policies and Procedures in relation to the take up of available measures to reduce the carbon footprint in privately rented accommodation'

9. However for reasons that Members have been kept apprised of, this scrutiny review has never really got off the ground. Since the topic was originally put forward in July 2011 and final agreement to progress to review was given in November 2011 very little has actually happened on the review.
10. Members may, therefore, wish to consider the merits of continuing with the review, bearing in mind the impact of the delays with the Green Deal and the clarity of the remit. If Members do still wish to continue they are asked to revisit the remit for this review to see whether it is still fit for purpose and may make amendment if they feel it is necessary. They are also asked to appoint a further Member to the Task Group undertaking this review.
11. In addition to the above Members are also asked to take into consideration the ongoing work and other reviews of this Committee and are asked to prioritise where this fits within this. If the chosen way forward is to continue then this should be clearly prioritised within the work plan and information given to Officers as to dates and requirements for the next meeting of the Task Group.

Council Plan 2011-2015

12. The theme of this scrutiny review is directly linked with the 'Protect the Environment' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015; in particular the 'reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality' strand of this document.

Implications

13. **Financial** – there are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However if the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
14. **Human Resources** - there are no known human resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However if the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
15. **Legal** - there are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However if the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.

16. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

17. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to note this update report and consider if it is worthwhile continuing this review.

Reason: To update the Committee of work undertaken to this date on this Scrutiny Review.

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Report
Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None