
Executive Member Decision Session- Neighbourhood Services (Including Housing)

21st December 2010

Report of the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods

Area based home insulation scheme - Update

Summary

1. This report advises the Executive Member of the successful outcome of the area based home insulation scheme and the potential funding opportunities through the Community Energy Saving Programme to extend the scheme.
2. It advises that there is significant work currently being undertaken by Leeds City Region on the Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme (DEEP) which if successful will have a positive impact on any future area based insulation work undertaken by the council.

Background

3. In December 2008 members asked officer to develop an area-based insulation scheme aimed at improving energy conservation standards in homes in the city and agreed to funding of £100k in for the works to be carried out during 2009/10. A further £25k was allocated for 2010 to complete the areas identified and to extend the scheme in to the Guildhall ward. Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)¹ funding, funding allocations from the Regional Housing Board along with government grants (Warmfront) to install **free loft insulation and cavity wall insulation** (where appropriate) in all **private** homes in the eligible areas along with Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) funding² supplements this funding.
4. It was initially agreed to targeted the scheme, having regard to the fuel poverty report and the private sector stock condition survey, at the wards with the lowest Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)³ ratings and highest levels of fuel poverty, Fishergate, Hull Road & Guildhall Wards.

¹ The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) - came into force on the 1 April 2008 and will run until 2011. The programme sets an obligation on energy suppliers, with 50,000 or more domestic customers to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, by promoting energy efficiency and micro renewables to domestic energy users.

² The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) has been created as part of the government's Home Energy Saving Programme. It requires gas and electricity suppliers and electricity generators to deliver energy saving measures to domestic consumers in specific low-income areas of Great Britain. CESP has been designed to promote a 'whole house' approach and to treat as many properties as possible in defined areas.

³ SAP is the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure for Energy Rating of Dwellings. SAP 2005 is adopted by government as part of the UK national methodology for calculation of the energy performance of buildings.

5. We have now completed the Fishergate ward and almost completed the Hull Road ward.

| Phase | Timetable | Area |
|---------|------------------------------|---|
| Phase 1 | September 2009 | Fishergate /Hull Road 759, 807, 840 |
| Phase 2 | November/ December 2009 - | Fishergate /Hull Road Area - 631, 753, 655 |
| Phase 3 | May 2010 | Fishergate /Hull Road 560, 791 |
| Phase 4 | July/ August 2010 | Fishergate /Hull Road Areas 554, 672 |
| Phase 5 | September 2010 | Guildhall Areas 871 and 996 |
| Phase 6 | October 2010 | Hull Road Area 564 (CESP funded area) |

6. The scheme is run by a unique partnership of the Energy Partnership, the Energy Savings Trust advice centre and the Neighbourhood Management Unit
7. Only **private homes** benefit from this scheme. The Neighbourhood Management Team contacts each eligible householder. Initially through a short leaflet asking householders to contact Energy Savings Trust advice centre on their free phone number.
8. Where the resident either asks for a visit someone from the NMU will visit the home and complete a short questionnaire. This ensures that we are reaching as many eligible householders as possible. Using the information we then arrange through the Energy Partnership the free installation of loft and/or cavity wall insulation where it is practicable.
9. The outcomes for individual residents are that:
- All residents are able to receive free advice and where they either complete a questionnaire they receive a personalised report offering them advice how to improve the energy efficiency of their home.
 - Eligible residents will benefit from free loft and/or cavity wall insulation if appropriate. To date more than **791 householders** have had measures (**advice, loft and /or cavity wall insulation installed**)
 - The Neighbourhood Management Unit have also found that residents often ask a range of questions, as a result of which residents have been referred to other services
10. The City of York council benefits in that the information collated helps to report back not only measures installed but also it delivers a reduction
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- a) in fuel poverty and
 - b) CO2 emissions (such savings benefit and contribute to the city's Climate Change Framework and Action Plan)
11. Households that spend more than 10% of their income on keeping warm are deemed to be fuel poor. Whilst the incidence of fuel poverty in York is lower than that found nationally our stock condition survey found that these areas had the highest rates. By providing loft and cavity wall insulation it is estimated that each year a household can save more than £200 per year in reduced fuel bills.
 12. In 2008, 37% of York's CO2 emissions were from domestic sources (source DECC 2010). This equates to approximately 436,000t of CO2 emissions. The Area based scheme through each measure installed can also contribute to CO2 savings for the city. It is estimated that the scheme has resulted in a 17,882t (4.1%) reduction of CO2 emissions. Such a scheme therefore supports delivery of the climate change framework (2010-2015) and action plan (2010-2013) and also the Sustainable Community Strategy – Sustainable City Chapter (2008).
 13. Phase 6 will be different to previous phases, as it will seek to gather sufficient information to ascertain whether a:
 - a) Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) bid should be submitted in the only qualifying super output area in the city. CESP is a programme, which allows a council to work with an energy supplier to look at whole house solutions in areas where there are low income. The scheme particular focuses on those measures, which can make a substantial difference to a household CO2 emissions (not just loft or cavity wall insulation). However the Executive member may want to note that officers are envisaging that if a CESP bid is to be successful that it will require more project management time than previous phases due to the housing stock (an area with a high level of houses with non traditional – construction) and also it will require some match captial funding.
 - b) Following a successful bid to Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) as part of the Leeds City Region's (LCR) project work on Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme (DEEP) the survey will also help to collect information which will test some of the principles (highlighted below) in particular the survey collection stage

Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme

14. As part of the Leeds City Region a project is being led by Bradford City Council, called the Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme (DEEP). The DEEP aims to provide
 - Quality information to each house using a whole house carbon saving approach
 - Transparency of any subsidy or access to 'Pay As You Save' opportunities to allow customer to decide best value for themselves

- Maximising customer choice including which carbon saving measure(s), when they have the measure installed and who installs the measure
 - Supporting small and large businesses create quality jobs in the local low carbon economy
 - Reducing the market costs of low carbon technologies for householders
15. A small project group of officers (including York) along with representatives from the Energy Savings Trust, National Energy Action are helping to develop the business case and financial plan. It is intended that a Regional Growth Fund (RGF) will be submitted in the New Year. A further report will be brought to the Executive Member confirming the outcome the survey work in the possible CESP funded area and the RGF bid, to advise the of the implications of any funding opportunities.

Consultation

16. The existing area based insulation scheme was agreed through the development of the private sector housing strategy. Part of the survey work for the CESP funded scheme will include feedback from residents.

Options

17. Option 1 – To agree that officer continue to work as part of the LCR to submit a bid to the Regional Growth Fund to support the development of the Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme.
18. Option 2 – To not support the bid for Regional Growth Funding.

Corporate Priorities

19. The council's corporate strategy identifies wanting to make York an Inclusive city, sustainable city and Healthy City as a priorities. Ensuring any risk to health as a result of fuel poverty clearly and supports these and by having a single point of contact supports the Effective Organisation priority.

Implications

20. The implications arising from the report are:
- **Financial** – Funding of the current area based scheme for capital works is through the capital programme currently £148k has been allocated. This year the revenue costs to support the Neighbourhood Management Unit work will be funded from within existing budgets. The full cost implications of the CESP funded area and DEEP project will be reported when the detailed business case stages have been completed.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** - None
 - **Legal** – None

- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

19. The risks associated with the proposals in this report are low and score less than 16. In compliance with the Council’s risk management strategy there are no direct risks.

Recommendations

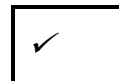
20. That the Executive Member notes the information in this report and approves Option 1 and gives authority to officers to seek further funding opportunities through CESP and the RGF for the Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme.
Reason: To ensure that the council meets its fuel poverty and sustainability targets

Contact Details

Author:
Ruth Abbott
Housing Standards &
Adaptations Manager

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Steve Waddington
Assistant Director – Housing & Public Protection

**Report
Approved**



Date 10th Dec 2020

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes – 1