

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

24th July 2012

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 proposes that Members consider rescheduling the work of the Task Group to later in this calendar year when more information will be available.

Background

2. In 2011 it was agreed that a Task Group be formed from Members of the Economic & City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) who would undertake a review in relation to ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’. However, after several meetings the Task Group recommended to the OSC that the review be postponed; this was following a paper it received on the 13th March 2012 which advised them of short term commitments made by Officers to take advantage of existing funding streams to help York residents. In addition to this officers 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 on the 13th March the following actions have been completed or are ongoing:

- The continuation of the Local Advice service operated by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership on behalf of the council until December 2012 to both compliment 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
- We have taken advantage of the CERT funding available ensuring that York Residents can take full advantage of the available funding which is due to end in December 2012. The scheme is being promoted by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership under the brand “Wrapping up York”. To date more than 727 York private sector householders have received 991 measures. This equates to more than £250k worth of funding which has been drawn down. Members may also want to note that residents installing such measures could save up to £ 310 per year on their fuel bills.
- The near completion of the CESP programme in the Hull Road area of the city. This area of the city is the only eligible area in York which can 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	271	9	30	Ongoing	24 and ongoing

- A landlord fair was held on the 30th May 2012 at the Park Inn jointly by the council and the York Residential Landlord Association. More than 160 letting agents and landlords attended the event. One of the presentations they received was called “Making the Green Deal work for landlords.” All the presentations are now on the website should you wish to look at them in detail:

http://www.york.gov.uk/housing/hmo/Landlords_info/

In addition a new Landlord Liaison Officer has been employed by the Council to develop an accreditation scheme in the city to raise the standards in the private rented sector. A key part of his work will be to ensure that the energy performance of a rented house will be central to such a scheme.

- During 'Climate Week' over 13 events were put on by partners across the city. Residents attending various events were informed of the Green Deal and associated opportunities. Following this in April, Partners at St Nicholas Field Environmental Centre secured Energy Saving Trust's LEAF funding and held two events on energy saving and the Green Deal.

Green Deal

4. Members are aware that the Green Deal is the Government's new finance framework for the provision of energy efficiency and other works at no upfront cost to householders and businesses.
5. The Council is likely to have a key role to play in the delivery of the Green Deal with the potential benefits of involvement likely to be:
 - New sources of revenue to deliver energy efficiency retrofits *e.g.* boiler replacements and other retrofit measures *e.g.* window replacements;
 - Help to reduce fuel bills for local residents and businesses;
 - Opportunities for local economic and physical regeneration;
 - Support for wider local strategic priorities *e.g.* better health outcomes, reduced fuel poverty, reduction in city-wide carbon emissions; and,
 - Support for the maintenance and generation of local jobs and skills.
6. There are three basic options open to Local Authorities for the delivery of the Green Deal. Very briefly they are:
 - Direct provision of the Green Deal *i.e.* the Local Authority does everything from assessments to arranging finance;
 - Partnering with a commercial Green Deal Provider; and,
 - No direct involvement *i.e.* leaves delivery to the market.
7. Leeds City Region (LCR) Chief Executives and Leaders approved the preparation of a business case for the City Region in February 2012. Marksman Consulting LLP has since been appointed by the LCR Secretariat to assist with the business case.
8. Leeds City Council have taken on the role of anchor authority for the project, for the business case to be viable additional resources will be required from other local authorities in the LCR. This will take the form of capital through prudential borrowing and / or social housing assets. It is too early in the development of the business case to state the benefits provision of capital and / or housing would have for York.

The outcome of the business case is due to be reported to the Leaders of the Councils' in October 2012.

9. A Council Green Deal Officer Steering Group which includes officers from legal, procurement and finance as well as sustainability and housing has also been established. It is currently feeding in to the LCR processes to ensure that York is kept fully informed and is able to take advantage of any proposals made by the LCR.
10. It should be noted that the LCR approach forms part of the appraisal of options being undertaken by the Steering group as dialogue is taking place between the North Yorkshire Local Authorities about the delivery of the Green Deal in the North Yorkshire sub-region. Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP) a local not-for-profit sustainability company owned by the Local Authorities (including York) in North Yorkshire is leading these discussions.

Consultation

11. No consultation has taken place since the review was postponed. However, at the landlord fair landlords and agents were advised of the scrutiny topic and asked if they would like to take part once it recommenced. To date there have been no responses.

Options

12. Members are asked to note the report and note that work continues to ensure that residents benefit from existing funding and that LCR has commissioned a business case for the region to maximise the potential benefits of the Green Deal. There is a recommendation to reschedule the Task Group work into the work plan for later in this municipal year following the outcome of the business case

Analysis

13. Members were made aware of the postponement of this review at their last meeting under the work plan item. This report is being brought to the Committee today to give an update and to recommend the rescheduling of the review to recommence after October 2012 to tie in with the outcome of the LCR business case due to report in this month.

Council Plan 2011-2015

14. 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

15. **Financial** – there are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
16. **Human Resources** - there are no known human resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
17. **Legal** - there are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
18. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

20. Members are asked to note the report and to consider recommencing this review in October 2012, after the LCR business case has been reported

Reason: To formally update the Committee of the ongoing work and to request that they reschedule the work of the Task Group to later this year following the outcome of the business case commissioned by the LCR

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Report
Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

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

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None