

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item	17
Report No	PDI 38/15

3 JUNE 2015

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMES FOR SCOTLAND – AREA BASED SCHEME

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

This paper confirms the updated position on the Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland – Area Based Scheme (HEEPS-ABS) in Highland and details the programme of works.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Scottish Government has put in place a scheme to assist householders to install a range of energy efficiency measures. This is to be funded mainly from Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding, with other supporting funds allocated from the Scottish Government.
- 1.2 The HEEPS-ABS scheme is intended to assist home owners improve the energy efficiency of their properties, and provide energy and cost savings to individuals.
- 1.3 The Council scheme allows householders to access measures that are carried out on an area based format. All areas of the Highlands are being targeted over the course of the scheme.

2. Highland Council Funding

- 2.1 The Council administers and directs the programmes, and receives the HEEPS-ABS funds as an annual award. This is offered to the supplier to provide ECO contribution and carry out the works.
- 2.2 The Council applies to the Scottish Government for core funding, and this is matched by the term supplier (E-On) to provide the total funding to the project. The funding that had been received is as follows:

Year	Core Fund	ECO	Total
2013-14	£1,867,837	£1,430,609	£3,298,446
2014-15	£3,183,019	£2,216,420	£5,399,439
2015-16	£2,379,088	£1,314,500	£3,693,588

A total of £12,391,479 has been attracted to the Highlands for energy improvements.

3. Highland Area Programme

3.1 The Council has a 3 year partnering contract in place with E-On to provide ECO contribution to the Council's HEEP-ABS fund, and to plan, manage, and undertake all suitable works in connection with the programme.

3.2 The funding is limited and the criteria for acceptance is as follows:

- the property must be of solid wall construction;
- heated by either oil, solid fuel or electricity;
- be privately owned or rented (holiday homes are excluded);
- be within council tax band A, B or C; and
- subject to successful assessment survey.

3.3 Gaining properties that can comply with the scheme conditions has been challenging, and a lot of effort has been made to ensure that properties can be included.

3.4 The scheme has included properties from areas across the Highlands, and has helped to complete zones that were left following completion of previous separate schemes:

- 300 properties in Inverness & Fort William have received external wall insulation (EWI);
- 535 properties will receive EWI or cavity fill in Lochaber, Caithness, Sutherland, and Aird and Lochness; and
- 305 properties will get EWI in Wester Ross, Kyle of Lochalsh & Skye, Mallaig/Arisag, Nairn, and surrounding area, Dingwall, Easter Ross, Badanoch and Strathspey.

3.5 The programme has targeted remote and rural areas, with off-gas properties being prioritised.

3.6 All works are to be completed by April 2016.

3.7 The Council will need to consider preparing for any new programme, and analysis will need to be undertaken to gather details on the opportunity that is available in the Highlands to present this to the Scottish Government. It is recommended that a study be completed in due course.

3.8 The Highland HEEPS-ABS has been recognised by nomination in the National Green Deal & Eco Awards for the categories for "Project of the year" and "Local Authority of the Year". The awards are to be held in Manchester on 19 June 2015.

4. Implications

4.1 Resource

The existing officer team is continuing with the programme to the end of the E-On agreement and there are no further resource issues.

4.2 Legal and Gaelic

There are no legal or Gaelic implications for the scheme.

4.3 Equalities

The scheme is to offer a parity of measures across the Highlands, and will target fuel poor and deprived areas, as well as households with elderly occupants.

4.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever

The scheme is intended to reduce emissions from the households in the Highlands, and carbon reductions will help towards tackling climate change and make a significant contribution in developing a Low Carbon Highlands.

4.5 Risk implications

The ability to engage with householders is a risk to a successful undertaking.

4.6 Rural implications

This year's scheme is primarily targeted at remote and rural locations, and will have a positive impact on these areas.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the progress and implications of the scheme, and promote any suggested areas for inclusion in future years' planning.

Members are asked to approve a study on Highland housing that will inform the Scottish Government on opportunities for further programmes.

Designation: Director of Development & Infrastructure

Date: 14 May 2015

Author: Eddie Boyd, Karen MacLean