

## **The Highland Council**

### **Planning Development & Infrastructure**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Agenda Item	23
Report No	PDI 20/14

### **Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland – Area Based Scheme**

#### **Report by Director of Development & 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 phase 2 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 scheme is intended to assist home owners to improve the energy efficiency of their properties and effect energy and cost savings to individuals. The scheme is envisaged to run for a period of 10 years.

#### **2. Highland Council Funding**

- 2.1 The Highland 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 has received an element of core funding from the Scottish Government of £1.8M in the first year and £2.055M for the second year.

#### **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 initial year planned for works to Inverness Central, Aird & Loch Ness, Landward Caithness and Lochaber Areas, which were selected on the basis of delivery to meet the Scottish Government timescales.
- 3.3 The second year programme has been developed to follow on from the opportunities identified in the initial phase and will undertake works on Fort

William, Caol, Aird & Loch Ness, Culloden & Ardersier, Thurso, Wick and Applecross on a mix of rural & urban properties.

- 3.3 There have been barriers to attracting householders into the scheme due to a range of other providers targeting the same areas, but the Council's endorsed scheme has now identified all required properties for the first 2 phases of the programme and signed agreements with all houses for the first year works.
- 3.4 A programme is being developed for the final year of the agreement with E-On with areas and appropriate houses needing to be identified for inclusion in the works and Members are invited to suggest areas where the supplier can survey and review.

#### **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**

There are no legal implications of 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 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 Gaelic**

There are no Gaelic implications.

#### **Recommendation**

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

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Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

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Background Papers: Members Briefing paper – 2014-04-HEEPS-ABS2