

Report

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Report to:	Housing and Technical Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	8 December 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Home Insulation Grant Award
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Committee of the outcome of the bid by the Council for grant funding from the Scottish Government in relation to the Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS)

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the grant award of £800,000 from the Scottish Government for installation of cavity wall insulation be noted.
- (2) that the programme of work proposal shown at section 5 be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. In August 2010, officers from Housing and Technical Resources submitted a bid of £2.1m to the Scottish Government towards grant funding totalling £10m which had been made available to assist in improving energy efficiency principally in private housing within Scotland.
- 3.2. On 11 October 2010, the Council was informed that £800,000 would be awarded for the installation of Cavity Wall Insulation (CWI) to 1900 owner occupier homes in blocks of flats which also contain Council tenants.
- 3.3. The bid was compiled to allow the Council to also have the CWI installed to the Council houses in these blocks but paid for by Scottish Power under current funding arrangements. It is anticipated that 1200 Council houses will benefit from this.

4. Proposals for installations and programme of work

- 4.1. The programme of work requires to be completed by the end of March 2011 and for this reason the following actions are proposed:-
 - ◆ the Council utilises its current partner agent, EAGA, to undertake all of the work
 - ◆ that, in the first instance, the offer of grant is made to residents in properties where the Council knows, from current records, that CWI does not exist or is defective. These properties have been identified from surveys undertaken in relation to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard
 - ◆ that, only in situations where the Council cannot obtain permission from enough owners of the homes known to be ineffectively insulated, will the offer of grant be made available to other home owners

5. Targeted Improvement Measures

- 5.1. Using the standard calculation method agreed by the Government for energy savings and carbon reductions, it is estimated that if all the properties on the programme can have the CWI installed, then the following financial benefits will be delivered to the residents:-
- ◆ fuel bill savings of £209,200 per year and £5,554,000 over the lifetime of the insulation measure

There will also be the following resultant reduction in carbon emissions:-

- ◆ CO² emission savings of 46,290 tonnes per year and totalling 1,115,238 tonnes over the lifetime of the insulation measures

6 Employee Implications

- 6.1. None.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The projected expenditure of £800,000 will be fully funded by the Scottish Government.

8 Other Implications

- 8.1. As noted in paragraph 5 above, the proposals contained in this report will reduce carbon emissions and will support the Council's aims to increase sustainability.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained within this report.

Lindsay Freeland
Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

1 November 2010

Link(s) to Council Values/Improvement Themes/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the quality, access and availability of housing,
- ◆ Sustainable development
- ◆ Tackling disadvantage and deprivation

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

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