

Report

10

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Report to: | Housing and Technical Resources Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 12 October 2011 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Subject: | Home Insulation Grant Progress Report |
|----------|--|

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcomes achieved as a result of the award of the grant in 2010/2011
- ◆ advise the Committee of the outcome and implications of the bid by the Council for grant funding from the Scottish Government in relation to the Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) 2011/2012

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the report be noted
- (2) that the proposals detailed at section 4 be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. A report was provided to Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 8 December 2010 informing members that the Council had received funding of £800,000 in relation to the UHS initiative. This funding was increased to £1m in March 2011 as results of slippage in spend in other councils.
- 3.2. This initiative was to provide assistance in improving energy efficiency principally in private housing in Scotland.
- 3.3. The report of 8 December 2010 noted that the initial priority for use of the grant would be in relation to owner occupiers in blocks of mixed tenure flats.
- 3.4. Section 4 details the outcomes achieved by the Council as a result of the successful completion of the 2010/2011 project.
- 3.5. In August 2011 councils were informed by the Scottish Government that a further £12.5m had been made available for 2011/2012 and asked that bids be submitted for a second round of UHS using the same criteria as in 2010/2011.
- 3.6. The Council submitted a bid for £1.883m out of a total of £12m and was informed on 14 September 2011 that it will receive funding of £740,000 towards the works.

4. Proposals detailed in 2011/2012 bid and procurement details

- 4.1. The bid submitted for 2011/2012 proposes the continuation of the works prioritised during 2010/2011 which were to install Cavity Wall Insulation in blocks of mixed tenure flats, predominately in East Kilbride, where the previous insulation had now deteriorated and now, in many cases, is causing dampness within the houses. In these situations the old insulation requires to be removed and replaced. At present no funding exists for the removal or the provision of scaffolding to undertake the work, if required.
- 4.2. Work will be programmed in parallel with our Housing Investment Programme (HIP) External Fabric projects to take advantage of scaffolding in place.
- 4.3. For installations outwith the HIP the Council will be required to provide a financial contribution towards the removal and scaffolding costs relating to the proportion of Tenants: Owners within the specific blocks. The estimated contribution at present is £195,000.
- 4.4. In line with Standing Orders a tender for the surveying, installation and management of the contract has been advertised and the successful contractor is due to be appointed in November 2011.

5. Outcomes achieved during 2010/2011 programme

5.1. Outcomes achieved from UHIS 1

| | |
|--|----------|
| Flats installed with Cavity Wall Insulation | 1,717 |
| Lofts installed with insulation for the first time | 204 |
| Loft insulation top ups | 349 |
| Estimated fuel bill savings / year | £237,200 |

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The projected expenditure of £935,000 will be funded by the Scottish Government Grant of £740,000 and £195,000 from the HIP in relation to proportionate costs for works undertaken to Council Houses. The HIP contribution will be funded from contract savings currently identified in the Capital Program and as such there will be no net additional costs.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. This funding will contribute positively to the Councils' sustainability objectives and priorities and will result in improved energy efficiency of properties.
- 8.2. In terms of risk, an initial risk assessment has been carried out. The works are linked to the Council's own investment programme, therefore, the risk of not completing the works are deemed to be low.

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. Extensive consultation with residents affected will be undertaken throughout the course of the installation programme.

Lindsay Freeland
Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

1 October 2011

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

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

Previous References

- ◆ Housing and Technical Resources Committee, 8 December 2010

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you want further information, please contact:-

Patrick Murphy, Head of Support Services

Ext: 4065 (Tel: 01698 454065)

E-mail: patrick.j.murphy@southlanarkshire.gov.uk