

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 MARCH 2003

ENERGY ADVICE UNIT: UPDATE REPORT

Report by Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members on recent developments in the implementation of the Council's response to its obligations under the terms of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), with particular emphasis on the benefits to the Council from the Scottish Executive's 'Central Heating Programme' and 'Warm Deal'.

2. BACKGROUND

As an Energy Conservation Authority, the Council is fully committed to implementing the requirements of HECA and putting in place measures which will improve the energy efficiency of housing (both public and private sector).

This report gives details of:

- Scottish Executive Central Heating Programme
- Scottish Executive Warm Deal
- Partnership with Scottish Power & Scottish & Southern Energy
- The Wise Group East Ayrshire

3. GENERALLY

3.1 Scottish Executive Central Heating Programme

This programme is now in its second year of operation and throughout Scotland the results have been impressive. East Ayrshire Council has not benefited as well as others from this initiative due to the existing high standard of heating within our housing stock.

However claims for 42 houses have been submitted for this work and it is the intention that a further 38 applications will be made. This has a financial benefit to the Council of approximately £200,000.

3.2 Scottish Executive Warm Deal

The Warm Deal continues to build on the success of previous years, achieving insulation to thousands of Scottish houses, combined with reductions in annual fuel bills and carbon dioxide emissions.

The Energy Advice Unit works closely with the various Warm Deal installers appointed to East Ayrshire Council.

The cumulative expenditure of their installation for year 2002/2003 will be £137,000, again a significant contribution to energy conservation.

Part of the Warm Deal initiative is administered by Local Authorities and East Ayrshire Council was allocated a grant of £20,000 from the Scottish Executive to carry out energy efficiency measures to our own stock. This was used in partnership with Fibreglo Insulations to carry out loft insulation to 102 council houses whilst employing 2 additional trainees.

3.3 Partnership with Scottish Power and Scottish & Southern Energy

As part of their Energy Efficiency Commitment partnerships have been formed with power companies to enable cavity wall insulation work to be carried out at a significantly reduced cost.

Partners contributions will be in the order of £15,000 each. The existence of these partnerships has in itself attracted Warm Deal funding.

The Energy Advice Unit has traded energy credits for work carried out by the Wise Group with Scottish and Southern Energy. This has resulted in an initial claim for £13,500 being granted and a second claim for a similar amount is being prepared, resulting in a total for the year of £28,630.00.

3.4 The Wise Group East Ayrshire

This project enjoys continued success and 51 trainees have secured full time employment or taken up full time education as a result of work sponsored by the Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cumulative grants obtained in relation to the Warm Deal will be in the order of £415,000 as detailed in Section 3.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

Implements the Home Energy Conservation Act, 1995

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Implements the Council's Energy Management Policy.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the content of this report.

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services
27 February 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact George Malone, Principal Engineer (01563 555233)

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