

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE - 31 MAY 2000

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).

2. BACKGROUND

As an Energy Conservation Authority, the Council is fully committed to implementing the requirements of HECA and in order to support the aims and objectives of this Act, must be seen to put in place measures which will improve the energy efficiency of housing within this Authority (both public and private sector).

The report gives details of:

- a) HECAAction
- b) Energy Advice Programme
- c) The Wise Group East Ayrshire

3. GENERALLY

3.1 HECAAction

South Ayrshire Energy Agency on behalf of the consortium of Councils (South Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway Councils) has submitted a detailed business plan for the central heating improvement programme. Grants and interest free loans are available to private homeowners in order to upgrade their heating systems with energy efficient condensing boilers. It is anticipated that these funds will be available to the public from June 2000.

It will be the responsibility of the individual Councils to promote and advertise this scheme within their own area. However all enquiries will be passed to South Ayrshire Energy Agency, who will be the administrators of this programme.

3.2 Energy Advice Programme

The Unit continues to visit the majority of new tenants, in order to advise them on the use of their respective heating systems. In addition, we are working closely with the appointed Network Installers, who are allocated funds for the provision of insulation measures to homes within this Authority that are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. There has been an increase from 4 to 6 network installers who are appointed by Energy Action Grants Agency, to deliver Warm Deal within East Ayrshire Council.

The network installers are now as follows

- Best Energy
- Fibreglo Insulation
- Kendon Property Services
- Solas Insulation
- The Wise Group .
- Zero K.

The 2 extra installers should in theory generate extra grants to the total value of £60,000 per quarter.

The Council applied to the Scottish Executive Development Department for an increase of £10,000 to their present allocation for the housing warm deal grant. We were successful and now have £100,000 to be spent on the terms and conditions under which the grant was originally awarded.

3.3 The Wise Group East Ayrshire

As from 1 April 2000 Heatwise East Ayrshire is now called The Wise Group East Ayrshire. There has been media coverage by the local press to announce this.

The allocation of money from the housing capital budget for the year 2000/2001 has increased. This will allow The Wise Group to provide additional training places and complete more insulation works for homes within the Authority.

The 1999/2000 annual report has been submitted by the Wise Group East Ayrshire.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £550,000, allocated in the approved housing capital programme 2000/2001 for the Heatwise ILM Project (The Wise Group East Ayrshire), will be fully expended in carrying out energy efficiency/security measures.

The European Social Fund, Enterprise Ayrshire, New Deal Monies and the Scottish Executive Development Office will provide additional funding of £486,000.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

Implements the Home Energy Conservation Act, 1995.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Implements the Council's Energy Management Policy.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members note the content of this report.

James Lavery,
Director of Homes and Technical Services

JL/GM/IDG

18 April 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Year-end Report 5 April 1999 - 4 April 2000

Any person wishing further information or to inspect the background papers should contact George Malone, Principal Engineer (Tel: 01563 555233)

AGENDA