

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

ENERGY ADVICE UNIT: UPDATE REPORT

Report by Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 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

- 2.1 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)
- 2.2 The report gives details of:
- HECAAction (Warm Homes)
 - Second HECAAction bid
 - Energy Advice Programme
 - The Wise Group East Ayrshire

3. GENERALLY

- 3.1 HECAAction
- 3.1.1 The latest progress report on Warm Homes Grant and interest free loan shows that it has been extremely successful and now no longer requires to be advertised.
- 3.1.2 As from September 2000 there have been 181 installations of which 22 have been installed within East Ayrshire. The income from all these installations allows grants and loans still to be paid out but a waiting list will commence this month.

3.2 Second HECAction Bid

3.2.1 The new Healthy Warm Homes Steering Committee are progressing well. It is expected that GP's will be contacted early this month and there will be a press release shortly after.

3.3 Energy Advice Programme

3.3.1 The Energy Advice Unit continues to visit the majority of new tenants, in order to advise them on the use of their respective heating systems. It is found that some 50% of new tenants benefit from this advice.

3.3.2 The Unit continues to promote Warm Deal in the community and is actively promoting the new Warm Deal, which affects our private sector, The availability of this grant should commence in September 2001. At present there is a guidance leaflet available to the public.

3.4 Eligibility

3.4.1 The resident or spouse must be aged 60 or over and must own their home or have tenancy agreement with a private sector landlord. The house must normally lack a central heating system. But if there is an existing system it must be completely broken and beyond repair.

3.5 The Heating Source and System

3.5.1 Subject to certain limits on cost, the resident has the choice of heating source from gas, electricity, oil or solid fuel systems. The heating system will be one of a range approved for this programme. It will cover the main living areas appropriate to the size of the households, such as the living room, the hall, the bathroom and the main bedroom.

3.5.2 If the resident wished to extend the system to other parts of the house they would have pay for the additional work.

3.6 The Package

- A central heating system
- Loft, tank and pipe insulation, cavity wall insulation, and draughtproofing, in each case where appropriate
- Advice on how to use the heating system
- A carbon monoxide detector (except where the heating system is electric); a mains linked smoke detector and a cold alarm

- 3.6.1 If the resident has already had a grant under the old Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) or Warm Deal, this will be disregarded.
- 3.6.2 The promotion of Warm Deal to all residents who were in receipt of a council tax rebate this year proved reasonably successful with 6% making enquiries with Eaga about the grant. The cost of carrying out this venture was borne by Eaga and consideration will be given to repeating the exercise next year.
- 3.6.3 The Unit together with staff from the South West Scotland Energy Efficiency Advice Centre were at the Environmental Fair held within the grounds of Dean Castle Country Park. Members of the public who attended were asked to complete a Home Energy Check questionnaire and in return they received a free low energy light bulb. Due to inclement weather only 50 members of the public took advantage of this offer.

3.7 The Wise Group East Ayrshire

- 3.7.1 At present The Wise Group employ 57 trainees and a further 5 are being trained. Since the last report in March 2001, 14 trainees have gained full time employment and 3 have gone on to take up full time education at Kilmarnock College.

3.8 Warm Deal and Home Energy Efficiency 2001-2002

- 3.8.1 The Unit has successfully claimed £25,000 for resources used to employ people under the Warm Deal initiative for works to improve the energy efficiency of local authority stock for the first quarter of 2001-2001.
- 3.8.2 As the maximum spend was met in this quarter we will be allowed to claim £25,000 next quarter which ends 30 September 2001.
- 3.8.3 To date there is no information as to the resources available for quarters 3 and 4 of 2001/2002.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is anticipated that with the further recruitment and diversification measures the £550,000 allocated in the approved housing capital programme 2001/2002 for the Wise Group East Ayrshire will be fully expended in carrying out energy efficiency/security measures.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Implements the Home Energy Conservation Act, 1995

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Implements the Council's Energy Management Policy.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services
25 August 2001

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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AGENDA