

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **HOUSING COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER 2000**

### **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:

- a) HECAAction
- b) Energy Advice Programme
- c) Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 – First Progress Report
- d) The Wise Group East Ayrshire
- e) Recipients of Energy Saving Trust Grants

#### **3. GENERALLY**

##### **3.1 HECAAction**

The launch of the HECAAction programme took place on 22 August 2000. Councillor Kelly attended on behalf of East Ayrshire Council. This programme will be administered by Southwest Scotland Energy Efficiency Agency on behalf of the consortium of councils comprising of South Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway.

Councillor Kelly was in attendance, as a representative of East Ayrshire Council, when Lord Whitty, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, presented an award to the consortium of councils at the HECAAction Awards Ceremony which took place on 12 July 2000 in the House of Commons, Terrace Pavilion.

### 3.2 Energy Advice Programme

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. In addition, we are working closely with the appointed Network Installers, who are allocated funds for the provision of insulation measures to homes that are in receipt of a qualifying benefit within this Authority.

A final report has been submitted to the Scottish Executive Development Office detailing the progress of the Energy Advice Unit over the four-year period from its conception to its final year. The actions taken by the project have resulted in many savings and benefits to the residents of East Ayrshire Council.

#### The Energy Advice Unit has

- Addressed the needs of the Areas of Priority Treatment
- Offered energy advice to new tenants
- Promoted energy advice through libraries, housing offices, local press etc
- Given advice to tenants following the installation of new heating systems
- Achieved a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions through energy efficiency measures
- Co-ordinated the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) and Warm Deal initiatives
- Achieved reduction in costs or improved comfort conditions for many tenants
- Formed partnerships with utilities, Social Work and Welfare groups
- Formed a partnership with the Wise Group, which has resulted in 47 trainees being given employment and training in energy efficiency related work
- Distributed 2,600 low energy lamps obtained through a partnership with Scottish Power
- Successfully submitted the Council's Home Energy Conservation Act report and first progress report.

It is considered that the project meets the initial remit and now by co-ordinating Network Installers and The Wise Group is providing an enhanced service under the urban programme

### 3.3 Home Energy Conservation Act: First Progress Report

Mr Peter Black of The Scottish Executive Development Department has communicated to East Ayrshire Council that the report complies fully with the requirements of the statutory guidance issued by him. The report shows that East Ayrshire Council is committed to improving home energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty and records an impressive rate of progress.

East Ayrshire Council's report has now been published and is available on request.

It is noted that the second progress report will be required for 31 December 2001 and will cover the period 1 April to 31 March 2001.

### **3.4**      The Wise Group East Ayrshire

The Wise Group East Ayrshire has been recruiting further New Deal trainees as a number of trainees are being found employment during or shortly after initial training. The number of trainees is now 43 and it is hoped to raise this figure to 59. This month 5 trainees have been successful in getting employment. The present buildings are too small for this number and The Wise Group is negotiating to lease an additional block at the Glencairn Industrial Estate, Kilmarnock.

It is anticipated that additional insulation measures of; fitting insulation panels behind radiators on external walls and replacing damaged seals on single glazed windows will commence within the next few weeks.

The first and second quarter claims have been made against the New Deal Monies allocated by the Scottish Executive Development Department (£100,000). This is £10,000 more than last year and helps fund an additional new deal trainee.

### **3.5**      Recipients of Energy Saving Trust Grants

The Energy Saving Trust provides grants to householders in order that they may install condensing boilers and cavity wall insulation within their homes. This offer ran from September 1999 to March 2000.

There were no applications from residents in East Ayrshire for a cavity wall insulation grant but 7 private households benefited from a condensing boiler grant.

## **4.      FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**4.2**      The European Social Fund, Enterprise Ayrshire, New Deal monies and the Scottish Executive Development Office will provide additional funding of £486,000 for training purposes.

## **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  
JL/GM/IDG  
2 October 2000

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

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

**AGENDA**