

Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project

Executive Member: Councillor George Clements

Lead Officer: Julie Betteridge

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Summary: This report has been brought to the Strategic Housing Panel to inform Members of the current position regarding the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project.

1. Introduction

It was agreed at the Cumbria Housing Executive Group on 11 January 2013 that the Cumbria affordable warmth project co-ordinator would report to the group half yearly so the project could be monitored.

2. Work plan

2.1 The attached work plan for the project worker covers the following actions;

- Free Insulation Scheme
- Home Energy Conservation Act
- Fuel Poverty Funding
- Community Carbon Savings Projects
- Data sharing protocols
- A Green Deal for Cumbria
- Cumbria Affordable Warmth Strategy

3. Funding

3.1 Discussions are on-going to establish a directly funded project for Cumbria that will ensure a proactive approach to engaging with all eligible households.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Further reports will be brought to Strategic Housing Panel in October 2013 and March 2014.

Work Plan as presented and agreed at the Cumbria Executive Housing Group Meeting 11th January 2013

Jan 2013 – 31st March 2013

- The continuation of the existing Cumbria wide Free Insulation Scheme.
- Production of a Home Energy Conservation Act Combined Report

April 2013- March 2014

Putting in place processes, procedures and procurement activities which will provide for the delivery of: -

- Information to Households on how to access to ECO-Affordable Warmth (Fuel Poverty) Funding.
- Development of a data sharing protocol with the benefits agency.
- County wide, targeted Energy Company Obligation (ECO) schemes focused on Community Carbon Savings Projects in all districts including low income, low population rural households.
- Development of "A Green Deal fit for Cumbria", as required under government Green Deal Guidance for LA's
- Completion of a Affordable Warmth Strategy for Cumbria

31st March 2014

Project Ends

| Action | Update | Target | Status |
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| Cumbria Warm Homes Project (Free Insulation Scheme) | <p>The scheme has now to all intent and purposes come to a close, although some free measures are still available to British Gas customers, and from Cosyseal Ltd.</p> <p>The overall report on installed measures as at 31st Dec 2012 has been circulated to each of the districts along with their individual reports, and line by line data is also being processed in order to help with future mapping.</p> <p>A final report on the project will be completed up until 31st March 2013</p> | June 2013 | Ongoing |
| Home Energy Conservation Act | <p>A final version of the combined report has been circulated with a recommendation that this is signed off by the CEO of each district, and as required under the guidance made available online through website access.</p> <p>Each of the districts needs to identify those areas which they will target for measures under the HECA Action Plan, Appendix-A.</p> <p>Initially areas will be outlined, but will not confirmed until such time a data is available that supports this selection, as a minimum and as identified in the action plan this will be based on existing EPC data, but alternative data and information will be used to refine and define these areas to ensure that delivery is effective.</p> <p>HECA Reporting is Bi-annual</p> | <p>22nd March 2013</p> <p>31st March 2015</p> | On Going |

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| <p>ECO-Affordable Warmth (Fuel Poverty Funding)</p> | <p>DECC has renamed this scheme as the: - Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation</p> <p>The main point of access regarding this grant is through the Free Phone 0300 123 1234 number of the Energy Saving Advice Service. However details of this process indicate that it can take over six weeks for a client to find out if they are eligible for this grant.</p> <p>As such discussions have commenced to establish a directly funded project for Cumbria that will ensure a proactive approach to engaging with all eligible households.</p> <p>This work is linked directly to the procurement process that is underway to secure ECO funding below.</p> <p>See attached proposed Cumbria Warm Homes HHCRO.</p> | <p>May 2013</p> | <p>On-Going</p> |
| <p>Energy Company Obligation (Community Carbon Savings Projects)</p> | <p>A procurement process is currently underway that will identify ECO providers and others who have funding and are prepared to work with the ECO delivery model outlined by the Warm Homes Project.</p> <p>The following time table is set out for this procurement time table: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Specification 2. Distribution of documentation, invitations to tender. 3. Closing Date for tender 4. Approval of preferred partners 5. Procurement Completion <p>Once the paper trail has been completed then it is suggested that successful partners should be invited to present to the group, this will introduce the providers to the districts and allow them to identify how they will delivery ECO projects.</p> | <p>1-15th Mar 2-29th Mar 3-26th Apr 4-10th May 5-17th May</p> | <p>On-Going</p> |

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| | <p>The objective is to have a selection of ECO Providers who will then be invited to deliver various collections of projects within each district, based on the ECO delivery model for Cumbria.</p> <p>This should result in multiple ECO projects across the county, being delivered simultaneously.</p> | | |
| DATA Sharing Protocol - Partnership Working | <p>Contact has been made with Judith Wilkinson, who is the Partner Support Manager, Cumbria & Lancashire, Department for Work and Pensions, National Partnership Team, based at 3rd Floor Stocklund House, Castle Street, Carlisle CA3 8SY.</p> <p>Judith is taking this forward to her management team to discuss the opportunities for partnership working.</p> | May 2013 | On-Going |
| A Green Deal fit for Cumbria | <p>The project continues to work with National Energy Action on the DECC funded Green Deal Practical Assistance Program, copies of the Action Plan for this work have been distributed, the outcome will be a final report making recommendations for LA participation in Green Deal in Cumbria.</p> | 31 st March 2013 | On-going |
| Cumbria Affordable Warmth Strategy | <p>The recent Energy Bill legislation and the expected changes to the definition of Fuel Poverty following the Hills Review have had the effect of putting any policy strategy on hold.</p> <p>A new time table for delivery is necessary and this can be linked to the emerging changes and delivery of the Energy Company Obligation.</p> | Oct 2013 | On-Going |