



To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

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Report by:
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TITLE:
HOUSING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMMES

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates members of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board on the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS) initiative.
- 1.2 The report also updates members of the Board on the announcement of the new Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) which was launched on 22nd January 2016.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board:
 - Notes the position with both HEEPS: ABS and SEEP initiatives
 - Notes that a report was presented to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board on 15th March 2016 regarding the approach being adopted by Renfrewshire Council with each initiative.

3. Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS)

- 3.1 HEEPS: ABS was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2013/2014 and is now entering its fourth year. The programme is targeted at private sector home owners to assist their participation and ensure projects to improve energy efficiency can proceed. The key objectives are to reduce fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions,

lever in funding from the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) support from utility providers and demonstrate an appropriate strategic fit and approach to improving energy efficiency.

- 3.2 Local Authorities act as coordinating agents for all HEEPS: ABS programmes in their area. Over the last three years, a total of £8.287M has been secured for Renfrewshire. This has enabled a range of external wall insulation projects to be carried out in multi-tenure blocks to support the Council's housing investment programme, as well as external wall insulation programmes by Linstone Housing Association, internal wall insulation by Williamsburgh Housing Association and energy efficiency projects of external wall insulation in the Lochwinnoch and Gallowhill areas.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government announced an overall allocation of £50M to HEEPS: ABS for 2016/2017 in December 2015 and indicated that each local authority will be provided with a core allocation which will be based on a distribution formula agreed with COSLA. To date, the details of the amount of core allocation have not been confirmed and the timescale for the application process has not yet been announced. Once these aspects are known, this Council will submit a bid.

4 **Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP)**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government announced Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) on 22nd January 2016. SEEP will be the cornerstone of the National Infrastructure Priority and its aim is to improve the energy efficiency rating of domestic and non-domestic buildings over a 15 – 20 year period, contributing to the Scottish Government's broader ambitions around reducing fuel poverty, energy demand and carbon emissions to assist in reaching climate change targets. SEEP will build upon the successful HEEPS: ABS and Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programmes and it is anticipated that Local Authorities will play a key leadership role in developing integrated and innovative approaches to deliver this.
- 4.2 Heating and cooling Scotland's homes and businesses costs £2.6 billion a year and accounts for approximately half of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Improving energy efficiency is fundamental to meeting the climate change targets set out by the Scottish Government. There are four broad themes at the core of SEEP:
- **Integration** – the need to create an integrated approach to the delivery of energy efficiency and reducing the need for heat. Most importantly, this includes the aspiration to integrate delivery across domestic and non-domestic buildings
 - **Innovation and Incentives** – innovative approaches to design and deliver new incentives and financial mechanisms to support SEEP. This innovation will seek to drive integration (the first broad theme of SEEP) but also to explore new approaches to leveraging private sector funding and the use of loan funding or commercial products designed to maximise the resources available

- **Advice and Information** – a refresh of existing approaches to the provision of advice and information to households and businesses across the public, private and third sectors to improve the fabric of properties so that they are more energy efficient
- **Standards and Regulation** – the setting and achievement of appropriate standards and regulation to ensure the quality of SEEP activities is integral to SEEP achieving its stated objective of an optimal energy performance for buildings

- 4.3 This new SEEP programme is now in its first phases and will be developed over the next two years and fully rolled out from 2018. The first two years will involve ‘pathfinder’ projects, the purpose of which is to identify projects which will build upon successes to date in improving the energy efficiency of buildings and test ways to improve and / or increase the scale of these efforts. Up to £10M of the overall £50M HEEPS: ABS allocation will be available in 2016/2017 to support the pathfinder projects.
- 4.4 Members of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board are asked to note that the Council is currently considering its strategy to respond to the requirements of the SEEP programme, which will require an integrated approach with a number of key stakeholders, including utility providers and Community Planning Partners in order to maximise all sources of funding availability.
- 4.5 These projects offer major opportunities which the Community Planning Partners can take forward as part of the overall Greener Agenda and will form part of the strategic priorities of the newly merged Carbon Management sub-group.

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