

To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: 30 October 2018

Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services

Heading: Energy Efficient Scotland Decarbonisation Fund – Award of Funding 2018/19

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Government announced the Energy Efficiency Scotland Decarbonisation Fund in May 2018 and invited expressions of interest from social landlords for a share of £3.5m capital funding which was made available for decarbonisation activity.
 - 1.2 This report sets out the outcome of the application process and provides members with details of the project which will be supported.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - (i) note that Renfrewshire Council has been allocated £145,720 for 2018/19 as part of the Scottish Government's Energy Efficient Scotland Decarbonisation Fund;
 - (ii) authorise the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services to accept this offer of grant and oversee the delivery and operational management of the programme; and
 - (iii) note the use of resources from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme to supplement the funding as set out in paragraph 3.6 of this report.
-

3. Energy Efficient Scotland Decarbonisation Fund 2018/19

- 3.1 The Scottish Government launched the Route Map for Energy Efficient Scotland in May 2018 as a co-ordinated programme to improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings in the commercial, public and industrial sectors.
 - 3.2 As part of the wider aims for Energy Efficient Scotland and the removal of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty and ambitions for emissions reductions, social landlords were invited to submit expressions of interest for a share of £3.5M capital funding for decarbonisation activity. The funding is to assist social landlords in complying not only with the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) 2020 target, but also maximising compliance with potential EESH2 standards post 2020.
 - 3.3 The funding criteria set out that the funding should be utilised for energy efficiency measures (e.g. internal works, insulation) within projects that also include decarbonisation activity (e.g. ground or air source heat pumps, biomass, solar PV and storage etc). Applications should also take cognisance of blending the funding to join up their own proposals and investments for energy efficiency with decarbonisation activity.
 - 3.4 Following the submission of an expression of interest in June and positive feedback from Scottish Government, Renfrewshire Council submitted an application in August for £145,720 funding to support existing investment proposals and allow these to be expanded to include a pilot project of decarbonisation measures in 8 properties in Blackstoun Oval, Paisley.
 - 3.5 The pilot project will specify, install and monitor the performance of a decarbonised heating solution that can be installed in flatted accommodation and assess whether this is a viable option to be rolled out on a larger scale. The project will include a full external works package (external wall insulation, roof, fascias and soffits, rainwater goods and service pipes) as well as trialling the installation of a range of measures including underfloor insulation, underfloor heating, ground source heat pumps, solar PV panels and smart controls.
 - 3.6 The Council was advised on 11 September 2018 of the outcome of the application process which confirmed the allocation of £145,720. The project also requires additional financial support of £213,000 from the Council's own financial resources which will be delivered as part of our Housing Investment Programme (External Works) with resources allocated from our Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme.
-

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial:** Scottish Government allocation of £145,720 to deliver a pilot project including decarbonisation works.
2. **HR & Organisational Development:** None
3. **Community/Council Planning –**
 - Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all – Improving housing conditions benefiting tenants. Addressing fuel poverty.
4. **Legal:** None
5. **Property/Assets:** Improvements in the energy performance of social rented dwellings.
6. **Information Technology:** None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety:** None
9. **Procurement:** Variation to existing contracts.
10. **Risk:** None
11. **Privacy Impact:** None
12. **COSLA Policy Position:** N/A.

List of Background Papers

None

FC/LF
9 October 2018

Author: Louise Feely, Housing Asset and Investment Manager, Tel: 0141 618 6049,
louise.feely@renfrewshire.gov.uk