

To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: August 2019

Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services

Heading: Housing Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes:
2019/20 – Award of Funding

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 12 March 2019 the Board approved a report which set out the projects to be submitted for funding for financial year 2019/20 under the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) initiative.
- 1.2 This report updates members on the outcome of the application and the projects which will be supported.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
- (i) homologate the action by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services in accepting the grant funding of £1,455,530 awarded for qualifying projects within Renfrewshire under the Scottish Government's HEEPS:ABS 2019/20 programme; and
 - (ii) authorise the Director Communities, Housing and Planning Services to oversee delivery and operational management of the programme.
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3. Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) 2019/20

- 3.1 The Scottish Government's HEEPS:ABS programme was introduced in 2013/14 and is now entering its seventh year. The programme is targeted at private sector home owners to assist their participation and ensure projects to improve energy efficiency can proceed.

- 3.2 The key objectives are to address fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions and demonstrate an appropriate strategic fit and approach to improving energy efficiency.
- 3.3 The potential benefits of HEEPS:ABS therefore complement and support a wide range of social housing initiatives including maintaining stock at the levels required by the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) as well as the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH).
- 3.4 Local authorities act as coordinating agents for all HEEPS:ABS programmes for their area. To date, a total of over £14m has been secured for Renfrewshire which has enabled arrange 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, Bridgewater Housing Association, Paisley Housing Association and internal wall insulation by Williamsburgh Housing Association.
- 3.5 On 28 March 2019 it was confirmed that Renfrewshire's allocation of the £49m available nationally for HEEPS:ABS was £1,455,530. Local authorities were required to submit schemes for consideration for their allocation by 26 April 2019.
- 3.6 The Council was advised on 7 June 2019 of the outcome of the application process which confirmed the award of £1,455,530 for HEEPS:ABS projects in 2019/20.
- 3.7 As in previous years, the projects within the bid focussed on mixed tenure blocks of solid wall construction type to support social landlords in meeting the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) and are set out below:

Co ordinating Partner	Project	Value of HEEPS:ABS
Renfrewshire Council	External Wall Insulation (Whitehaugh)	310,960
Renfrewshire Council	External Wall Insulation (Blackstoun Oval)	231,725
Renfrewshire Council	External Wall Insulation (Gallowhill)	388,700
Renfrewshire Council	External Wall Insulation (Bridge of Weir / Howwood / Inchinnan / Kilbarchan)	524,145
Total		1,455,530

Implications of the Report

- Financial** – HEEPS:ABS allocation of £1,455,530 for 2019/20 to support owner participation in Council projects within the Renfrewshire area.
- HR & Organisational Development** – None

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

- **Our Renfrewshire is thriving** – assisting private owners to participate in programme to improve housing conditions, making Renfrewshire a great place to live
- **Our Renfrewshire is well** – improving housing conditions benefitting tenants and private owners. Addressing fuel poverty.
- **Reshaping our place, our economy and our future** – investment in the refurbishment of housing stock will create jobs and contribute to the economy

4. **Legal** - None

5. **Property/Assets** – Improvements in the energy performance of both social rented and private 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** – Contracts are in place to deliver this programme of work.

10. **Risk** - None.

11. **Privacy Impact** - None.

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – COSLA have been consulted on the allocation model used for the distribution of HEEPS:ABS funding through the Settlement and Distribution Group

13. **Climate risk** - This funding will be utilised to improve energy efficiency in privately owned properties, which will contribute to residents using less energy, thus reducing emissions.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 21 August 2018 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19 - Update

- (b) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 22 May 2018 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19
- (c) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 13 March 2018 Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19
- (d) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 12 March 2019 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2019/20

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Development & Housing Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Louise Feely, Housing Asset and Investment Manager, 0141 618 6049, louise.feely@renfrewshire.gov.uk