
To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: 17 August 2021

Report by: Director of Communities & Housing Services

**Heading: Housing Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes:
2021/22 Award of Funding**

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council has been awarded £1,003,800 for qualifying projects under the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS) for 2021/22.
- 1.2 The report updates members on the funding process that has secured this investment and the projects which will be supported.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
- (i) homologates the action taken by the Director of Communities and Housing Services in accepting the funding of £1,003,800 that has been awarded for qualifying projects within the Renfrewshire Council area for 2020/21 under the Scottish Government's HEEPS: ABS programme; and
 - (ii) authorises the Director of Communities and Housing 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) 2021/22

- 3.1 The Scottish Government's HEEPS: ABS programme was introduced in 2013/14 and is now entering its ninth year. The programme is targeted at private sector homeowners to assist their participation and ensure projects to improve energy efficiency can proceed. The key objectives are to address fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions and demonstrate an appropriate strategic fit and approach to improving energy efficiency.

- 3.2 The potential benefits of HEEPS: ABS 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 (ESSH).
- 3.3 Local authorities act as coordinating agents for all HEEPS: ABS programmes for their area. To date, a total of over £17m has been secured for Renfrewshire which has enabled a range of external wall insulation projects to be carried out in multi tenure blocks to support the Council's Housing Revenue Account 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.
- 3.4 The Council made an application for £1,003,800 of the 2021/22 funding and was advised on 30th June 2021 that the application had been successful. Details of the projects included within the bid are set out below:

Project	Value of HEEPS:ABS
Renfrewshire Council Mixed Tenure Blocks External Wall Insulation and Solar PV (Johnstone and Linwood)	504,000
Managing Agent for Wholly Privately Owned Properties	499,800
Total	1,003,800

- 3.5 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 (ESSH).
- 3.6 However, for the first time, an application to support a pilot scheme of funding to private homeowners in houses or wholly private blocks through a Managing Agent was included within the submission and funding for this was approved.
- 3.7 The Council will seek the services of a Managing Agent through an open tender process, with the intention of offering this support to private homeowners in areas where the Council has previously carried out HEEPS:ABS investment programmes, where houses and/or blocks were not included in our programme due to them being wholly privately owned. The costs of the Managing Agent role will be met by the HEEPS:ABS funding.
- 3.8 The take up and success of the pilot project will be monitored, with a view to including similar projects in future applications for HEEPS:ABS funding should its success be demonstrated, and sufficient funding be available in the future.

4. Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) 2020/21

- 4.1 The delivery of the 2020/21 HEEPS:ABS programme was significantly impacted by the periods of lockdown and restrictions throughout the Covid pandemic, and the construction industry continues to face a range of issues with supply chain issues and limited resources. Additionally, in instances where private owners did not agree to participate in the 2020/21 programme, there wasn't the opportunity to identify alternative properties as was the case in previous years due to the lockdown restrictions and uncertainty around the scheduling of works.
- 4.2 Accordingly, there has been the need to reprofile the timetable for the HEEPS:ABS investment programme with works being rescheduled over this year and next year.
- 4.3 Members should note there continues to be complexity and a degree of uncertainty around the programming schedule due to the ongoing issues being faced by the construction industry. This may impact on the scheduling of works and the timetable for drawing down HEEPS:ABS funding, which will be managed by the Director of Communities and Housing in line with the Scottish Government's funding criteria timescales.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – HEEPS:ABS allocation of £1,003,800 for 2021/22 to support owner participation in a range of projects within the Renfrewshire area
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
 - **Our Renfrewshire is thriving** – assisting private owners to participate in programmes 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 social rented and private dwellings 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** – Procurement of suppliers to deliver some elements of this programme of work.

10. **Risk** - None

11. **Privacy Impact** - None

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None

13. **Climate Risk** – Projects will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency of both social rented and private dwellings.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 20 August 2020 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2020/21 Award of Funding
- (b) Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 20 August 2019 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2019/20
- (c) Report to Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on 12 March 2019 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2019/20
- (d) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 21 August 2018 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19 – Update
- (e) Report to Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 22 May 2018 – Home Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Programmes: 2018/19

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