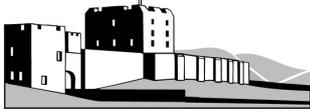


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 14th July 2011

Title: Cumbria Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project - Update

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Engagement)

Report reference: CD 05/11

Summary:

This report updates members on the work of the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project, strategy and the governments 'Green Deal' initiative.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

1. To what extent will the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project make a real difference to fuel poor homes?
2. Members are asked to consider and comment on the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project

Contact Officers:
**Simon Taylor/Tom
Barlow**

Ext: 7327

1 Background

Carlisle City Council has a history of working within the fields of Fuel Poverty, affordable warmth and energy efficiency. They previously hosted the successful Cumbria Energy Efficiency Advice centre (CEEAC) and currently host the post for the county affordable warmth project development officer. The work of this officer includes the Cumbria Affordable Warmth project.

2 Current Progress

Cumbria Warm Homes Project

This project helps homeowners understand their energy needs. It is designed to reduce CO2 emissions and reduce fuel poverty across the County. The project will be launched in August 2011 across all six districts. It has the potential to install over 16,000 measures into homes identified through collaborative data sharing between the Energy Saving Trust advice centre (ESTac), the Cumbria Intelligence Observatory (CIO) and the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project. Appendix one provides information about the number and percentage of homes by District that require additional measures.

The project is open to homeowners and targeted to neighbourhoods that have been identified as having high levels of insulation need.

Homeowners who take part in the Warm Homes Energy Audit will benefit from an energy audit inspection and a personalised report containing recommendations on energy saving products and services, and information about discount or NO COST energy measures.

The Warm Homes Energy Audit will include details of: -

- The overall energy efficiency of the dwelling.
- The estimated running costs.
- The efficiency of the heating system.
- Other options such as renewable energy.

The audit report will identify what works may be required and how much they will cost and how long it may take to get your money back, (the payback period).

Homeowners can then select which energy measures they would like to undertake, from basic loft and cavity wall insulation, replacement boilers or photo voltaic solar panels.

In some cases the costs may have to be estimated and a further survey may be required by a specialist contractor in order to provide a bespoke estimate.

Warm Homes Energy Audits are **FREE** courtesy of the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Partnership. Partners include the Energy Saving Trust, District Councils, Cumbria County Council, the Lake District National Parks Authority and EON Energy.

Home Owners can book an appointment for a Home Energy Audit by calling **FREE** on **0800 512 012** (9am until 7pm Monday to Friday). Surveys will normally be carried out within 10 working days and will take around an hour to complete.

Funding

The project will operate around the Carbon Energy Reduction Target (CERT) funding accessed through E.ON Energy; there is no cost to the Districts or the County.

The project is time bound in that the funding will come to an end in December 2012, to be replaced with the governments Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

The latest details of which can be found in the Project Library under Green Deal at the website: - <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/community/residents/affordablewarmth.asp>

Communication and Management Arrangements

The project has established a reporting mechanism for elected members, through committee members' teams within the county and district councils and to Parish Councils via Cumbrian Association of Local Councils (CALC)

The first newsletter was circulated in March 2011 and contained information on: -

- Overview of the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project
- Information on CERT Funding
- Lobbying Issues

And links to:

- Affordable Warmth Website
- Fuel Poverty Action Guide
- Green Deal

- NEA Manifesto
- EU. Mayors Covenant

The second edition is due for circulation on 5th July 2011.

Cumbria Advice Network

The Cumbria Warm Homes project is now a member of the network, and our details are available on the site. This enables many of the third sector organisations to raise awareness of the project with the general public and specific client groups and in turn receive referrals.

More formal reporting mechanisms through Adult Social Care and Children's services are taking shape but only slowly reflecting changes within the operating structure and reporting requirements of these organisations.

The Cumbria Affordable Warmth Strategy

This document is developing; with the main area of work being the delivery plan that will support the strategy.

This at present is in the form of three themes:

1. Housing Condition
2. Household Income
3. Energy Prices

Under these themes are actions which stakeholders are being asked to opt-in-to. It is anticipated that a draft document will be ready for consultation in autumn.

Warm Front

Warm Front commenced work again from the 14th of April 2011, and it has a new set of criteria that applicants need to meet if they are to qualify.

Changes to the scheme include:

- The £300 rebate scheme is no longer available
- Benefit checks are no longer available

- Energy Light Bulbs are no longer provided
- LPG boilers **will now** be available in rural areas as a new system.

Eligible homes identified under Cumbria Warm Homes Project will be fast tracked into Warm Front.

Lobbying

Information about the end fuel poverty campaign can be found on the website <http://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk/>

Green Deal

Due to be introduced from January 2013, Green Deal is the government’s flagship energy driver and relies heavily on interventions from energy companies and retailers, to make it work. The scheme works on the Pay as You Save Principle.

Under the Green Deal, bill payers will be able to get energy efficiency improvements without having to front up the cash. Instead, businesses will provide the capital, getting their money back via the energy bill. At the heart of the offer is a simple rule: estimated savings on bills will always equal or exceed the cost of the work.

The scheme still requires a lot of work before it is ready to start. A few firms such as Marks & Spencer, B&Q, Tesco and British Gas have expressed an interest in marketing the scheme and providing the finance. But the law will need to be changed so that energy firms will be obliged to collect the repayments from homeowners via their energy bills.

The law will also need to be altered so that anyone who buys after the work has been done, but before the bill has been fully paid, is obliged to take on the debt and repay it. These legal changes are included in the current Energy Bill, which is going through parliament and should receive its Royal Assent this July. It has also not yet been decided just how much interest will be added to the loans.

Further information about Green Deal is available from the Affordable Warmth website: http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/community/residents/affordable_warmth.asp

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

		Is the impact
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Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	Yes	Positive
Disability	Yes	Positive
Race	Yes	Positive
Gender/ Transgender	Yes	Positive
Sexual Orientation	Yes	Positive
Religion or belief	Yes	Positive
Human Rights	Yes	Positive
Health inequalities	Yes	Positive
Rurality	Yes	Positive

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

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If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.

Appendix 1

Energy Saving Trust – Home Energy efficiency Database – Areas of High Insulation Potential May 2011

Local Authority	Total Homes	Estimated Private Homes	% total homes needing measures				Number of measures			
			Virgin Loft	Loft Top-Up	Cavity Wall	Solid Wall	Virgin Loft	Loft Top-Up	Cavity Wall	Solid Wall
Allerdale	45,184	35,893	11.5	14.9	20.8	26.8	4,112	5,350	7,477	9624
Barrow	33,168	30,556	13.8	15.3	16.2	21.5	4,208	4,669	4,948	6580
Carlisle	49,089	41,375	9.3	16.5	12.3	22.2	3,847	6,846	5,101	9199
Copeland	32,568	27,168	9.3	13.2	23.8	15.1	2,528	3,585	6,465	4099
Eden South	24,853	21,593	7.7	12.9	7.7	44.5	1,654	2,786	1,654	9598
Lakeland	51,883	48,413	9.6	12.2	9.6	17.2	4,642	5,928	4,672	8313
	<u>236,745</u>	<u>204,998</u>					20,990	29,165	30,316	47413
							Total Measures		80,472	-
							Conversion	20%	16,094	