

Cabinet – 24 July 2013 Supplementary Report

Private housing energy efficiency - Tackling Fuel Poverty

Portfolio: Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader, Regeneration and Transport

Related portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe, Resources

Service: Strategic Housing

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Purpose

Amend recommendation 2.1 as below to enable partner(s) to be obtained to assist with retro-fitting of private sector homes to include areas outside the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) areas to maximise;

- investment into the borough
- improvements to housing stock
- the number of households helped out of fuel poverty.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet is recommended to approve commencing a procurement process for partner organisations to deliver home energy efficiency improvements including pursuant to the Energy Company Obligation (“ECO”) scheme for private dwellings in Walsall to aim to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions.

3. Background

- 3.1 ECO has defined geographic areas (set by Department of Energy and Climate Change – DECC). Whilst there are many of these in Walsall there are significant numbers of homes where households are in fuel poverty and or require energy efficiency retro-fitting. The amended recommendation allows for these areas to be potentially assisted too.
- 3.2 This broadening of the partnership is in full accord with the council’s adopted Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Action Plan and the governments approach to helping tackle fuel poverty, ‘Green Deal’.

- 3.3 Funding outside ECO areas may be possible from energy companies however the level of assistance per home is expected to be at a lower rate) than within an ECO area.
- 3.4 Bidding organisations in their bids will be expected to demonstrate the level of funding they can bring to the borough and the funding mechanism(s), low interest loan or surcharge on energy use, for those where a 100% grant is not available.
- 3.5 The Council allocated £470,000 for 2013/14 to help with retro-fitting and fuel poverty initiatives and this budget will continue to help secure ECO and other funds. The broadening of the partnership to outside ECO areas will not require any greater financial commitment from the Council and is instead anticipated to lead greater leverage of external investment into the borough. In line with financial regulations the council will spend no more than it's budget, any other costs and funding will come from other sources (providers, grants, householders) so there is no risk or overspend to the council.

Author

David Lockwood

Housing Standards and Improvement Manager

☎01922 658459

✉ lockwooddavid@walsall.gov.uk



Rory Borealis
Executive Director

24 July 2013



Councillor A. Andrew
Deputy Leader, Regeneration and
Transport

24 July 2013