

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th May 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Green Deal Energy Company Obligation

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report relating to the Government's Green Deal Scheme.

The report explained how the Energy Company Obligation aspect of it could be rolled out in Stockton, and the progress on selection of a partner to deliver on the energy efficiency measures.

Cabinet was reminded that it had previously considered an update report on the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) at its meeting on 29 November 2012. At that time around 1,000 private sector homes had benefited from energy efficiency measures in the Borough, saving 180,000 tonnes of carbon, along with substantial reductions in residents' energy bills, improvements in comfort levels and in health.

CESP had come to an end in December 2012 and was replaced by the Government's new initiative "Green Deal", the National CESP scheme only applied to 17 lower super output areas in the Borough. Under the new energy company obligation a further 8 lower super output areas become eligible and measures would be available to all solid walled properties in the Borough, totalling around 5,500 homes.

Members noted the implications for the Council of the new initiative and agreed that the best approach would be to engage a partner to deliver the area-based insulation measures. The benefits would be:

- To the partner: the Council's endorsement to residents and support in area-wide promotion to try to ensure a high take-up.
- To the resident: peace of mind that the installation would be to a high quality and consistent with others in the area, and delivered to a planned timetable.
- To the Council: there was a high level of take-up and quality control, to a planned and known timetable agreed with various Council services e.g. Care For Your Area, Building Control, street works

coordination.

It was clear therefore that there were benefits to be gained for the Council by entering into a further partnership.

Discussions had taken place with 4 potential partners on various aspects of ECO to determine what would be the most appropriate arrangement. A fundamental principle within this was that any scheme would need to be fully funded by the energy company, via its installer i.e. with no cash input from the Council for top-up or remedial works.

Based on the Council's experience with the CESP scheme members noted:

What the Council would offer:

- Endorsement of the partner as a 'trusted brand' to the residents;
- Office space for local operations management by the partner and resident drop-in centre;
- Access to housing stock data to enable effective programming.

What the Council would require:

- To work with the partner to develop a targeted promotion and installation programme;
- To work with the partner to coordinate building control, street works, scaffolding and cleansing;
- Detailed data from the partner on measures completed
- A partnership review at 6 months, 12 months and then annually thereafter.

It was suggested that partnership selection was determined as soon as possible based upon the information from the 4 sets of discussions and proposals and that this decision be made by the Head of Technical Services via a delegated decision.

RESOLVED that

1. the changes to the national domestic energy efficiency support measures.
2. the Head of Technical Services be authorised to complete the selection process of a partner to deliver Energy Company obligation measures as 'preferred installer'.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Delivery of the ECO programme in the borough would tackle fuel poverty within the borough on a scale that had not been achievable previously. Around 5,000 homes would see measures applied to the properties to significantly improve their energy efficiency.

Carbon emissions would be reduced which would contribute to tackling climate change, energy bills for households would be reduced and around 300 jobs created, coupled with a £20m investment making a significant contribution to the economic performance of the area.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 - Green Deal Energy Company Obligation as he was a Member of Tristar Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 24 May 2013

Proper Officer
20 May 2013