

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th July 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

ECO External Wall Insulation Scheme Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on ECO External Wall Insulation Scheme Update.

In July 2014 Cabinet approved further resources to complete the final phases of the ECO programme to complete 866 further properties. In Stockton on Tees, the Council had delivered large scale investments and delivered significant outcomes in recent years under the governments Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme, by working effectively in partnership with energy suppliers, partners and householders on a street by street basis. 2505 households were improved with External Wall Insulation (EWI) and significant contributions to reducing fuel poverty were made from 2012 - 2014. Unfortunately, in 2013/14 the scaling back by the government of the national ECO programme left our scheme to complete a further 866 households facing financial challenges, and to date the Council had completed 660 of those targeted properties in 2014/15

The programme of EWI installations under ECO was due to conclude in July 2015 and at present would result in £100k of capital money returning to SBC at the end of July 2015, however this would result in 88 properties on Castlereagh Road and Newtown Avenue not receiving the expected EWI works. This would be disappointing both for the householders anticipating measures to reduce their fuel bills and improve their energy efficiency, and for SBC in terms of our overall efforts to reduce fuel poverty levels across the Borough.

To complete the additional 88 properties would cost £250,000, after taking account of the money returned, would require an additional £150k of Council resources to be invested. This would complete a very successful scheme of 3253 households improved with EWI and 4776 households receiving energy efficiency measures overall, bringing to a close the current ECO delivery in Stockton-on-Tees, and was the most practicable solution in the financial circumstances.

The work undertaken under CESP and ECO had been a huge success delivering significant outcomes, particularly for health, warmth and financial in large numbers of properties and across several deprived LSOAs and wards. After the 88 properties were concluded additional properties would move away from LSOA areas.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The significant performance be noted in delivering large scale energy efficiency measures under CESP and ECO on a 'whole street' approach with 3253 External Wall Insulations complete in the last 3 years.
2. The challenges faced by SBC and all local authorities since the ECO scheme was scaled back nationally be noted.
3. A final 88 properties on Castlereagh Road and Newtown Avenue to conclude the ECO scheme be agreed, subject to approval of funding by Council.
4. A survey be carried out on the residents that had benefitted from the ECO Scheme to gauge the health and wellbeing effects of the works.
5. The results of the survey be used to lobby the government for the introduction of a similar scheme.
6. A further report be submitted Cabinet giving the results of the survey.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

7. The allocation of £150,000 from General Fund Balances to conclude the ECO scheme be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To enable Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to conclude a very successful three year programme of large scale, 'street by street' external wall insulation improvements under CESP and ECO to 3253 properties while meeting the expectations of the 88 remaining households who would otherwise miss out, due to the scaling back of the ECO scheme nationally.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Members were presented with 3 different options as detailed within the report. Option B was agreed.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

24th July 2015 for recommendations 1 – 6.

Proper Officer
20 July 2015