

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting19th January 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

ECO External Wall Insulation and Health Evaluation Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on ECO External Wall Insulation and Health Evaluation.

Levels of fuel poverty in Stockton-on-Tees had reduced from 11.1% in 2013 to 10.7% in 2014, in the 2016 sub-regional national data by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEAIS), the second lowest level amongst the North East authorities¹.

The Council approach had been to work in partnership and offer a wide range of preventative and reactive measures such as Warmer Homes Healthy People programmes and encourage large scale, area wide insulation measures funded through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). 4999 households had been improved since 2012 in the 4 wards and 11 Lower Super Output Area's (LSOA's) with the highest prevalence of fuel poverty.

This had resulted in measurable reductions in fuel poverty levels in these areas, however government funding was scaled back from 2013 resulting in ECO scheme delivery in Stockton-on-Tees being concluded in February 2016. The challenge still remained to tackle in excess of 1000 solid wall properties in the aforementioned LSOA's and provide wider assistance to the 8,585 households that required affordable warmth.

The Council had secured external funding and commissioned Newcastle University to independently evaluate the health and economic benefits of area based energy efficiency measures, and provide a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis, which would be used to inform national policy debates on the future of such schemes.

The report demonstrated such schemes significantly reduced energy consumption and cost for householders, by up to 32% in some cases, and had realised energy cost savings to Stockton-on-Tees householders of up to £6.2m since 2012. The longer cladding was prevalent, the fewer

practice nurse appointments and outpatient hospital clinic appointments people required and the report estimated health related quality of life savings of £2.6m since 2012. The government had consulted on a future ECO programme from 2017 – 22 via the 'Help to Heat' proposal, and having responded the Council awaited the outcomes on the potential for future direct support from obligated energy suppliers.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The positive findings from the evaluation of previous energy efficiency measures of health related savings of £2.6m and lowering fuel costs of £6.2m be noted.

2. The reduction in fuel poverty levels in Stockton-on-Tees and the significant performance in delivering large scale energy efficiency measures under CESP and ECO be noted.

3. The challenges and opportunities faced by SBC as a result of the review of ECO nationally be noted.

4. A future report detailing the outcomes from the Government's consultation on the future of ECO and its significance for future insulation schemes in Stockton-on-Tees be supported.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Cabinet has supported the delivery of large scale, area based schemes targeting the most fuel poor through the installation of energy efficiency measures. This report provides a summary of the performance and an update on the national landscape with regard to financial support, while a future report will provide information on the outcomes of the Government's consultation on ECO 2017 – 2022.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Ann McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 11 - ECO External Wall Insulation and Health Evaluation Update as she was a member of SDAIS.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight, 27 January 2017

Proper Officer
23 January 2017