



REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting
LEAD OFFICER: Director, Health and Environmental Services

27 November 2014

GREEN DEAL PARTNERSHIP: PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose

1. To report on progress of the Green Deal Partnership in furthering the delivery of energy performance improvement measures for private housing in the district.
2. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

3. The Leader is recommended to note progress delivering solid wall insulation supported by the DECC Green Deal Communities Fund, through the Action on Energy scheme.
4. The Leader is recommended to note delays in reaching anticipated milestones, both of home energy measures generally through the Action on Energy scheme, and also of solid wall insulation supported by DECC Green Deal Communities funding. The Leader is recommended to note measures being taken to address the causes of these delays where possible.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. In the period since the Leader's Portfolio Holder meeting on 17 July 2014, Climate Energy Ltd, commercial partner on the Action on Energy scheme, has switched all efforts to delivering solid wall insulation and other measures supported by the DECC Green Deal Communities funding award (other sources of funding, e.g. ECO have not been available to Climate Energy during this period). Although as of 7 November, only two installations have been completed in South Cambridgeshire, significantly more are in the pipeline, with 175 Green Deal Assessments (stage one in the process) completed, 30 quotes accepted and 11 jobs passed for install.
6. Although interest in solid wall insulation has been good, for a variety of reasons, it has not been possible to translate this quickly into completed works, and the number of completed installations is below the target level at this point. The Green Deal Project Board has been working closely with Climate Energy Ltd to identify issues and resolve them where possible, overseen by the Sponsors Board.

Background

7. The Green Deal Partnership consists of Cambridgeshire County Council and the five Cambridgeshire district councils working together to secure the maximum benefit to Cambridgeshire residents from the government's Green Deal and associated programmes, including ECO.

8. A contract for the supply of services in respect of the Green Deal in Cambridgeshire was awarded in mid October 2013 to Climate Energy Ltd. The contract runs until September 2016, with an option to extend subject to review.
9. The scheme "Action on Energy Cambridgeshire" launched on 13 November 2013. Information about the scheme is available on the website www.actiononenergy.net.
10. In March 2014 the Green Deal Partnership was awarded £7.8M from the DECC Green Deal Communities Fund for the installation of solid wall insulation to 1,000 domestic properties across the county (£5.8M), plus additional projects including training of installers and installation of a range of energy efficiency improvements in the private rented sector (£2M).

Considerations

11. Promotion of the scheme has been by Climate Energy advisors leafleting target streets and following up with door to door canvassing, following an area by area schedule, as reported to the last Leader's Portfolio Meeting. This has been supported by communications to local communities from the Parish Energy Project Officer.
12. Information about the scheme has also been disseminated through the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP). The second of two SPEP workshops on solid wall insulation took place in October.
13. As of 7 November, two installations have been completed in South Cambridgeshire, with significantly more are in the pipeline. 175 Green Deal Assessments (GDAs - stage one in the process) have been completed, 30 quotes accepted and 11 jobs passed for install.
14. The total figures for the five Cambridgeshire districts of nine installations completed, 38 jobs passed for install, 92 quotes accepted and 735 GDAs completed. 49% of completed GDAs are in Cambridge City, 24% are in South Cambridgeshire, and the remaining 26% are in Hunts, East Cambs and Fenland combined.
15. The Project Board are in close communication with DECC, who are aware of progress and risks to delivery of the project.
16. Regular monitoring meetings are in place with Climate Energy Ltd. A number of issues have been identified through monitoring arrangements and feedback from clients, which have been followed up and are being addressed where possible.

South Cambridgeshire Show Home

17. A property in Whittlesford has been selected as a show home. Work is scheduled to begin on 3 December, and will be profiled on the Action on Energy blog – see <http://www.actiononenergy.net/in-action/blog/item/12-introducing-our-latest-action-on-energy-show-home>

Planning Considerations

18. In some circumstances external solid wall insulation is permitted development. In other circumstances, e.g. in Conservation Areas and where the proposed materials will result in a change of appearance to the property, planning permission is required. Development Control has been assisting with this process. A Planning Officer has been assigned to external wall insulation and the documentation required has been clarified and, where possible, simplified.

Options

19. This report is for noting and does not include decisions.

Implications

20. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

21. None other than previously noted, i.e. additional income from DECC Green Deal Communities fund of £16,823 (officer time 2 days per week at scale 5).

Legal

22. None other than previously noted, i.e. a contract has been entered into with Cambridge City Council as lead authority for the DECC project for work towards the delivery of the DECC project. This has been checked by our legal officer.

Staffing

23. As previously noted, officer time to take the project forward is being covered within existing resources.

Risk Management

24. As previously noted, the project is managed by a Project Board and overseen by a Sponsors Board providing strategic oversight and direction. Risks are managed via the Health and Environmental Services risk register.

Equality and Diversity

25. As previously noted, the Action on Energy scheme, including the DECC funded aspects, is open to all in private sector housing: ensuring that the benefits of energy efficiency improvements are experienced as widely as possible is a key objective of the scheme.

Climate Change

26. As previously noted, a core driver of the Green Deal is the reduction of carbon emissions from buildings in order to meet carbon budget targets arising from the Climate Change Act. Maximising uptake of Green Deal measures in South Cambs will contribute towards meeting these targets.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council).

27. Progress with Action on Energy and the Solid Wall Insulation Fund in particular has been reported via the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership. Local members and parishes are also contacted prior to targeted local publicity and asked for comments / feedback.

Effect on Strategic Aims

28. Endeavouring to ensure that the Council secures a good deal from the Green Deal for its residents, businesses and local economy as a whole will support the following Council Strategic Aims:

(a) Delivering value for money and sound management of resources

- (b) Strengthening partnership working
- (c) Playing our part to improve rural services
- (d) Promoting economic growth
- (e) Encouraging low carbon and sustainable living

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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