

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE – 15 DECEMBER 2003

REPORT ON: SCOTTISH POWER
ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE FOR HOMEOWNERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 798-2003

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To outline the detail of the new initiative proposed by Scottish Power in partnership with the City Council to provide low cost energy efficiency measures for qualifying owner occupiers in the city.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is asked to:

- 2.1. Agree to the City Council entering into a partnership with Scottish Power for the purpose of delivering low cost energy efficiency measures to owner occupiers in the City.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Scottish Power will fund a significant amount of measures to be carried out in owner occupiers homes. The level of funding will depend on the type of work to be carried out and the fuel type currently used to heat owners homes. Scottish Power will fund these works through the Energy Efficient Commitment Scheme. There are no financial implications for Dundee City Council.

4. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

The following key themes of LA 21 will be met.

- Resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised.
- Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope.
- Access to good food, water, shelter and fuel at reasonable cost.
- Obtaining external funding and/or Grant Aid.

5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

This partnership with Scottish Power will lead to an improvement in energy efficiency for owners in the City thus reducing the impact of fuel poverty.

6. **BACKGROUND**

6.1. **Scottish Power Energy Efficiency Commitment Scheme**

In June 2003, Housing Committee agreed to enter into an exclusivity deal with Scottish Power for the provision of Energy Efficiency Commitment funding to carry out energy efficiency measures to the City Council's housing stock. Since June this funding has assisted the Council in paying for loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, insulated roughcast and energy efficient condensing boilers for the Central Heating Programme. Scottish power is also a partner in the Dundee Community Energy Partnership and as part of the above agreement contributed to its core funding. The exclusivity deal will be reviewed when DCEP, completes its work in May 2005.

6.2. **Homeowners Energy Efficiency Package**

As a natural progression from its support for Council house tenants, Scottish Power is seeking to extend its funding into the owner occupier sector in the City. This initiative will deliver energy saving improvements to homeowners at a low cost with the balance being funded from Scottish Power. Improvements can include any or all of the following.

- Free home energy surveys.
- Subsidised cavity wall and loft insulation.
- Grants towards gas central heating.
- Discounted high efficiency replacement gas boilers.
- Low energy light bulbs.

These works will be carried out by a Scottish Power appointed contractor who will discuss specific details of their own property with homeowners.

6.3. **Levels of Grant**

The levels of grant depend on the type of fuel used to heat the homeowners dwelling. In gas, oil or LPG heated homes, the levels of grant are 50% of the cost although properties with more than four bedrooms may be subject to a separate quotation. For electric and solid fuel heated homes the grant is 70% of the cost again subject to the same caveat for houses with more than four bedrooms.

All insulation works will be covered by a 25 year guarantee.

6.4. **Dundee Community Energy Partnership (DCEP)**

Over the course of their survey work DCEP have identified many home owners who, having had their houses surveyed would benefit from Energy Efficiency measures, but do not qualify for any existing schemes to assist with the cost of these works. It is proposed that DCEP liaise with Scottish Power to ensure that these homeowners benefit from the new initiative.

6.5. **Publicity**

The fine details of this have yet to be discussed, but it is proposed that the Council will assist in any publicity as a partner in the project through targeted mailings, press publicity etc.

6.6. Benefit to the Council

Thus far it has proved difficult for the City Council to discharge its statutory responsibilities under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) with respect to private home owners. This initiative will assist the Council in:

- Reducing fuel poverty in the owner occupied sector.
- Meeting its statutory targets for the reduction of CO² emissions and improvements in energy efficiency across the City.

7. CONSULTATION

All Chief Officers have been consulted on this project.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Housing Committee Report 16 June 2003 – Scottish Power Energy Efficient Commitment Scheme.

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21 November 2003