

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE – 20TH MAY 2002

REPORT ON: DUNDEE COMMUNITY ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (DCEP)

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 457-2002

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Committee of the progress made in the development of the Dundee Community Energy Partnership and of its launch.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Committee notes the launch of the partnership and individual Members give their support to the project in principle and in practice when it is operational within their individual wards.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. £32,000 per annum over the three year life of the partnership to carry out energy surveys and energy advice visits to those benefiting from installation of central heating. This will be funded from the HRA Capital Budget and the Scottish Executive grant for the Central Heating Initiative.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The purpose of the Dundee Community Energy Partnership is to identify energy efficiency measures specific to individual occupiers and properties with a view to identifying appropriate funding to have these measures carried out. This will result in savings in energy and reduction in CO2 emissions into the atmosphere.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. By helping occupiers to save energy, they will be assisted in also saving money or achieving higher comfort levels for the same outlay. Therefore, the partnership will assist in the alleviation of fuel poverty and, thus, increase social inclusion.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. A report was submitted to Housing Committee in August last year regarding the proposed Dundee Community Energy Partnership (DCEP). In line with the Committee decision which was made at that time, a member of staff from the Housing Department was seconded to manage the partnership last November and the last six months have been spent setting it up. Most of the preliminary agreements have been made, funds secured, staff recruited and procedures put in place to enable DCEP to launch.

- 6.2. The project will survey every single household in Dundee. The answers the householders give to questions about their home and their household income will be fed into a computer software package. This will generate lists of those householders who are in fuel poverty, that is who have to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel costs. Those so identified will be the “core clients” for DCEP and it is to them that measures such as loft insulation and money and energy advice will be delivered. The funds for these measures will come from existing sources, the difference being that DCEP will co-ordinate them and work through the city delivering them in a systematic way.
- 6.3. In order to work through the city with a project of this range and scope, it has been necessary to break the city into more manageable sized units. The basis of this split is wards. Wards have been ranked in an order which reflects their relative poverty, with the poorer wards (i.e. those where it is more likely to find a high incidence of fuel poor) coming first. Finding deprivation indices in relation to wards has been an almost impossible task and the best figures available are those on SIPs status. These are based on information which is now ten years old. However, these figures DO represent the best available information. Appendix 1 attached shows where individual wards feature in the programme. Those wards which have SIP1 status are ranked first followed by those which have (decreasing) proportions designated as having SIP2 status. The remaining wards currently have no SIP status and have been ranked according to the proportion of social housing within them.
- 6.4. Each ward will be subject to a six month burst of activity from DCEP, ward 2 starting at the beginning of month two, ward 3 at the beginning of month three and so on. By the time ward 6 is reached DCEP will be working simultaneously in six wards. The six months per ward will be spent as follows:
- | | |
|------------|--|
| Month 1 | - Marketing |
| Month 2 | - Surveys |
| Month 3 | - Input of survey results, identification of fuel poor and compilation of schedule of measures for each |
| Months 4-6 | - Delivery of physical measures and advice services and updating of records/monitoring |
- 6.5. The marketing in the first month in each ward will entail not only engaging with the local media but also engaging with local communities. Posters will be put up in Post Offices, Health Centres, Libraries, Community Centres, etc. – anywhere they can be seen by the residents of the ward. Residents groups will be consulted, articles will appear in community newsletters. etc. It is hoped that Elected Members will assist in the process of promoting the scheme within their wards. Not all householders will want to take part in the scheme and people are often sensitive about divulging details of their household income. However, to encourage participation Scottish Hydro have agreed to give four free low energy light bulbs to all householders who have a survey carried out and, combined with the pre-publicity, it is hoped that take-up can be maximised.
- 6.6. Marketing in ward 1 started during w/c 6th May with a view to surveys starting in the ward during w/c 10th June..
- 6.7. A further strand of the partnership relates to the current shortage of gas heating installers available within Dundee (and, indeed, elsewhere in the UK) which severely limits the Council's ability to have gas heating installed in its own properties and the ability of EAGA to have heating installed in private properties which qualify for the private-sector Heating Scheme. The partnership will work together with GWINTO, Claverhouse Group, SET, Employment Services and Advantica to deliver a six month SVQ level 2 in gas heating installation to the unemployed within the city. This qualification is not intended to replace standard apprenticeships in any way but is a means of addressing the current shortage.

Individuals can add further modules to their level 2 SVQ up to full apprenticeship level. As in all matters relating to gas installations, safety will be paramount.

- 6.8. This is a major project for Dundee and other Scottish local authorities are watching with great interest to see how it progresses. If successful, it is likely to be replicated elsewhere in Scotland and, indeed, it has already been cited even before its launch as an example of Best Practice. There is now a requirement on Local Authorities under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 2001 Part 5, Paragraph 88 to..." ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that persons do not live in fuel poverty". The timetable for this has been set at 15 years. By all parties working together, the citizens of Dundee can be rid of the scourge of fuel poverty within three years and set a model which other local authorities will be keen to emulate.

7. **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1. This report has been prepared after consultation with all Chief Officers, DFTA, Transco, Scottish Hydro, Claverhouse Group, EAGA, Energy Action Scotland, Scottish Energy Efficiency Office, COSLA, SET, Employment Services , GWINTO and Advantica.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. Reference is made to report No 534-2001 " Dundee Community Energy Partnership" which was presented to Housing Committee on 20th August, 2001.

Elaine Zwirlein
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Signed_____

Date_____

Appendix 1

| <u>WARD NAME</u> | <u>COUNCILLOR</u> | <u>NO PROPS</u> | <u>SIP STATUS & NOS</u> | <u>RANKING</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| HILLTOWN | FIONA GRANT | 2633 | SIP 1 1395 | 1 |
| PITKERRO | ALLAN PETRIE | 2597 | SIP 1 1562 | 2 |
| BALGOWAN | RIKKI BEATTIE | 1953 | SIP 1 1168 | 3 |
| ARDLER | ROBIN PRESSWOOD | 2151 | SIP 1 996 | 4 |
| WHITFIELD | WILLIE SAWERS | 1899 | SIP 2 1899 | 5 |
| CLAVERHOUSE | ANDREW DAWSON | 2003 | SIP 2 152+48SIP 1 | 6 |
| LONGHAUGH | JOE FITZPATRICK | 2326 | SIP 1 24 | 7 |
| TAY BRIDGES | FRASER MACPHERSON | 2406 | SIP 2 745 31% | 8 |
| CAMPERDOWN | JOHN LETFORD | 2458 | SIP 2 712 29% | 9 |
| FAIRMUIR | HELEN WRIGHT | 2542 | SIP 2 711 28% | 10 |
| LOCHEE EAST | CHIC FARQUHAR | 2469 | SIP 2 696 28% | 11 |
| LOCHEE WEST | JILL SHIMI | 2266 | SIP 2 639 28% | 12 |
| DOUGLAS | GEORGE REGAN | 2539 | SIP 2 421 16.6% | 13 |
| STOBSEWELL | MERVYN ROLFE | 1833 | SIP 2 274 15% | 14 |
| NINEWELLS | GEORGE DE GERNIER | 2340 | SIP 2 294 12.6% | 15 |
| BRACKENS | IAN BORTHWICK | 2119 | SIP 2 190 9% | 16 |
| BOWBRIDGE | DAVID BOWES | 2564 | SIP 2 179 7% | 17 |
| LAW | JULIE STURROCK | 2280 | SIP 2 111 4.9% | 18 |
| STRATHMARTINE | DAVE BEATTIE | 1901 | NIL | 19 |
| BALGAY | BETTY WARD | 2995 | NIL | 20 |
| CRAIGIEBANK | JOHN CORRIGAN | 2258 | NIL | 21 |
| EAST PORT | NEIL GLEN | 2393 | NIL | 22 |
| LOGIE | JIM BARRIE | 2286 | NIL | 23 |
| BAXTER PARK | ELIZABETH FORDYCE | 2199 | NIL | 24 |
| BROUGHTY FERRY | KENNETH GUILD | 2546 | NIL | 25 |
| BARNHILL | BRUCE MACKIE | 2202 | NIL | 26 |
| RIVERSIDE | NEIL POWRIE | 2061 | NIL | 27 |
| BALGILLO | ROD WALLACE | 2114 | NIL | 28 |
| WEST FERRY | DEREK SCOTT | 1982 | NIL | 29 |