

4 GREEN HOMES CASH BACK FOR SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS (AN195-2014)

Green Homes Cash Back for Social Housing Providers (GHCB SHP) is a source of funding for domestic energy-efficiency measures such as external wall insulation (EWI) launched by the Scottish Government in July 2014.

Bids are being requested by the Scottish Government from Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) for a share of the fund for projects in 2014/2015, all schemes must be completed on site by the end of March, 2015. This fund is in addition to HEEPS-ABS (Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland - Area Based Schemes), another Scottish Government domestic energy efficiency fund from which the Council has successfully obtained £3.7m this financial year for carrying out EWI on mixed tenure blocks of flats. The two funding streams cannot be combined. HEEPS can only be spent on owner-occupied and privately rented properties, the emphasis for GHCB is on social rented properties, although it can be used for owners within social housing areas.

The published criteria for projects indicates that bids from rural and off-gas areas will be prioritised in the Scottish Government scoring regime. Properties in Dundee are on network gas supplies which may disadvantage any bid submitted. It is proposed that a bid for Dundee be submitted for 33 solid-wall cottages in Mid Craigie 2nd development, (25 tenants, 8 owners), the rationale being that the flats in the area are to benefit from EWI in 2014/2015 through HEEPS and this would ensure a more comprehensive approach to upgrading the properties in the area.

Bids must be submitted by 28th August, 2014 and the Scottish Government will announce the successful bidders in September. It is proposed a bid for £250,000, the maximum amount allowed per project, be made and this would allow work to be done without any cost to the Council or the owners. However, timescales for procurement and delivery of the work will be very challenging given it must be completed by 31st March, 2015.

The Committee is asked to endorse the submission of a bid to the Scottish Government for GHCB SHP on the basis outlined above.