



Special Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Monday 11 December 2017**

Time **9.30 am**

Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement.**

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Declarations of Interest, if any
4. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
5. Fuel Poverty in County Durham Projects - Overview: (Pages 3 - 8)
 - a) Joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services.
 - b) Presentation by Cliff Duff, Housing and Regeneration Project Manager, Regeneration and Local Services
6. School Carbon Reduction Programme and other Sustainability Education School Initiatives - Progress: (Pages 9 - 14)
 - a) Joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services.
 - b) Presentation by Richard Hurst, Sustainability Education Development Advisor, Children and Young People's Services
7. Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) - Overview: (Pages 15 - 18)
 - a) Joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services.
 - b) Presentation by Calum Baker, Business Energy Efficiency Project Manager, Regeneration and Local Services
8. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
1 December 2017

To: **The Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor E Adam (Chair)
Councillor O Milburn (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B Avery, D Bell, L Brown, J Carr, J Clare, J Clark,
R Crute, A Gardner, P Howell, P Jopling, C Kay, R Manchester,
C Martin, A Patterson, A Simpson, P Sexton, L Taylor, M Wilson and
S Zair

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mr D Kinch

Contact: Paula Nicholson

Email: 03000 269710

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 December 2017



Fuel Poverty

Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with detail of the projects and schemes available in the county to tackle fuel poverty prior to a presentation by Cliff Duff, Housing Regeneration Project Manager, Regeneration and Local Services.

Background

- 2 Members have received several reports in relation to the progress together with detail of various projects in the county to tackle fuel poverty. The last progress report was provided to the committee at the meeting on the 18 November 2016 to which members of the Economy and Enterprise OSC and the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC were invited due to the 'cross cutting' nature of fuel poverty.
- 3 It was agreed by members at this meeting that the committee would receive a further progress report as part of the work programme for 2017/18.
- 4 Arrangements have been made for Cliff Duff, Housing Regeneration Project Manager, Regeneration and Local Services to attend the meeting on the 11 December and provide a presentation focusing on:
 - Regional and local overview of fuel poverty
 - Delivering and monitoring
 - County Durham Warm Homes Campaign
 - Central Heating Fund
 - Managing Money Better
 - Energy Company Obligation phase 1, 2 and 3

Background

- 5 Fuel poverty is measured using the Low Income High Cost definition and arises from a household's inability to afford the energy required to power and heat their home to a satisfactory standard necessary for good health. This standard is defined as domestic temperatures of 21°C in the primary

living area (living room) and 18°C in the secondary living areas (other occupied rooms).

- 6 The Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 2015-2030 was released in March 2015. Those who live in property rated below band “E” level Energy Performance Certificate rating need to spend on average £1,000 a year more on energy to heat their home compared to a typical home. Through the Energy Act 2013, the government established a new duty to adopt a fuel poverty target. The new fuel poverty target for England sets out an ambition that as many fuel poor homes as reasonably practicable achieve a Band “C” energy efficiency standard by 2030 and this became law in December 2014.
- 7 The best long-term solution to tackle fuel poverty is through energy efficiency measures such as insulation and efficient heating systems to provide warmer homes and advice on energy tariffs to lower energy bills.

Regional and Local Overview

- 8 The most recent fuel poverty statistics were released in 2015 as follows:
 - Nationally 11% of households are fuel poor
 - North East average 13.3%
 - County Durham average 13.3% (30,183 households)

Delivery and Monitoring

- 9 Co-ordination, promotion and delivery of fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes to low income residents is a key corporate priority. To this end the County Durham Affordable Warmth Action Plan was agreed by Cabinet in 2015 and has seven key aims to maximise the assistance provided to fuel poor households in County Durham.
- 10 The action plan is co-ordinated by the County Durham Energy and Fuel Poverty partnership. This partnership brings together a wide range of external organisations (AgeUK, Citizens Advice, East Durham Trust, Fire Service etc.) to maximise awareness, credibility and uptake of the fuel poverty intervention programmes and assistance.

Warm Homes Campaign

- 11 The Warm Homes Campaign network was formed by the council to coordinate and promote all energy efficiency and fuel poverty schemes to residents living in County Durham. The network has over 900 local community venues, community groups and partners who help to raise awareness and uptake of grants to assist with reducing energy bills and maximizing income.
- 12 In October 2017 the Warm Homes Campaign received a national award from the Association of Local Authority Energy Officers in “Recognition of outstanding work in the fields of domestic energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty”.

Warm Up North

- 13 Warm Up North (WUN) is a joint working partnership of nine Local Authorities (LA's) in the North East including Durham County Council. This partnership aims to share good practice to assist fuel poor households.

Central Heating Fund

- 14 An example of this joint working between Local Authorities is the Central Heating Fund which provides free first time central heating systems (gas, oil or air source heat pumps) for low income households. Using central government funding the scheme ran in 2016/17 and was promoted countywide by the Warm Homes Campaign. As a result 394 households in County Durham received a free boiler and central heating grant equating to £1.8m of external funding drawn down into Co Durham.

Energy Company Obligation phase 1 (ECO1)

- 15 Under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) all energy companies must provide low income fuel poor households with grant assistance to install energy conservation measures. This includes new boilers and insulation measures.
- 16 ECO phase 1 ran from 2015 to 2017 and was promoted countywide including large scale targeted mail outs. During 2015/17 a total of 2,822 households in Co Durham received free boiler grants and insulation measures equating to £4.96m of external funding.

Energy Company Obligation phase 2 and 3

- 17 ECO phase 2 has recently commenced to provide grants for on and off gas low income and fuel poor households. A procurement exercise is currently taking place to secure a fuel poverty grant assistance programme funded by ECO2.
- 18 ECO phase 3 will run for 5 years from 2018 to 2022 at £870m per annum. The Government wants to refocus the ECO3 supplier obligation towards helping those in greatest need to heat their homes and is a key Government priority.

Managing Money Better

- 19 There are many competitive energy tariff schemes available which can be confusing. This can result in households not accessing the cheapest energy tariffs leaving vulnerable residents suffering fuel debt and cold homes.
- 20 The Managing Money Better (MMB) service provides free and impartial advice to County Durham residents to access competitive energy tariffs, help switch energy provider and fuel debt write off assistance.

- 21 Housing Solutions manage MMB using a countywide promotional plan to raise awareness and maximise referrals. Since the scheme commenced in April 2017 a total of 291 households have been assisted saving £33,451 on energy bills and fuel debt write off.

Recommendations

- 22 It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and comment upon the information provided within the presentation.
- 23 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee include in its work programme for 2018/19 a further progress report.

Background Papers

Report to the Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC on 18 November, 2016 - Fuel Poverty Update.

Report to Cabinet on 21 October 2015 - Welfare reform and poverty issues

Contact/Author: Cliff Duff	Tel:	03000 265262
Author: Diane Close	Tel:	03000 268141

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Not Applicable

Staffing – Not Applicable

Risk –Not Applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Not Applicable

Accommodation – Not Applicable

Crime and Disorder – Not Applicable

Human Rights – Not Applicable

Consultation – Not Applicable

Procurement – ECO2 procurement exercise is currently taking place

Disability Issues – Not Applicable

Legal Implications – Not Applicable

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**Environment & Sustainable Communities
Overview & Scrutiny Committee****11 December 2017****School Carbon Reduction Programme and
other Outdoor and Sustainability Education
School Initiatives - Progress****Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration
and Local Services****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Members of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with detail on the progress of a number of school programmes that engage pupils with outdoor and sustainability learning.

Background

2. The School Carbon Reduction Programme began in 2010 following research developed through the County Council Carbon Management Plan, which identified schools as a key sector and priority area with growing carbon emissions and associated costs.
3. The Outdoor and Sustainability Education Service was re-structured in 2012-13. It had previously been an informal partnership between DCC and two charities. During this period, DCC took the decision to close the residential outdoor centres that it ran in Richmond, Middleton-in-Teesdale and Westgate in Weardale. As part of this restructure, a new partnering agreement was negotiated and the service was rebranded as OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists). It is now heavily reliant on the charity partner with only one member of staff remaining with Education Durham working on this agenda.
4. Much of this work contributes to The Environment Partnership predominately through the Climate Change group, a multi-agency thematic group. Activities that support schools though initiatives such as the Eco-Schools programme and campaigns such as Earth Hour are discussed through this group and opportunities to add value through partnership working are identified.

Overview

5. Members of the Committee will receive a short presentation from the Education Development Advisor – Sustainability regarding some of the key schools programmes that has been undertaken.
6. The presentation will cover the following projects:
 - a. School Carbon Reduction Programme (SCRP)
 - b. Projects associated SCRP

- i. Energy Performance Contracting
 - ii. Rebus (EU funded programme)
 - iii. Salix Funding for schools
- c. Examples of other school projects led by OASES

School Carbon Reduction Programme

7. This programme has been operating since 2010 and is working with over 90% of the schools in the County. Schools engage through the Energy Management SLA. It has made a significant impact on energy use in schools through:
- a. Flexible learning sessions with pupils and teachers.
 - b. Support for School Business Managers, Premises Managers, Senior Management and Governors.
 - c. A focus on wasted electricity use
 - d. A focus on out of ours gas use
 - e. Investigating opportunities for investment in renewables and energy efficiency. A new round of schools are being approached working with the company Solar for Schools. Schools particularly along the east coast of the County are being focussed upon as the light levels are better.
 - f. Energy Performance Contracting for Schools. This project has taken longer than anticipated due to a number of reasons. Three schools were identified as potentially suitable and have had detailed surveys by Honeywell Engineers in late September. We are reviewing the proposals in November before engaging with the schools on funding options to take the options forward.
 - g. Salix funding for schools. This government funded programme provides zero interest loans for schools and academies for energy efficiency projects. The projects must pay back within 8 years so this limits the opportunities on what types of retro-fitting are appropriate. Schools payback the loan using the savings made from reduced electricity or gas use. Schools are being given support on an individual basis at present on how to apply for the funding.
 - h. Involvement with REBUS Interreg Europe programme
 - i. The programme has been well received by a number of the partner countries. The learning from the programme has and will be shared further with a number of the partner countries over the next 12 months.
 - i. The in-school support element of the SCRP programme is being procured at present. The initial phase of selection has been completed and the full application process is underway at present. The successful contractor will

be in place from April 2018, the contract will be for initially 2 years with a possible 2 year extension.

A Selection of Programmes Developed by OASES

8. The partnering agreement with Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (based at Esh Winning Primary School) continues to thrive, it is currently working with schools on over 25 different themed projects. The organisation continues to provide schools across County Durham (and the rest of the region) with high quality learning opportunities through global sustainability projects and outdoor learning opportunities.

The projects they offer to schools are regularly updated as new funding opportunities are identified and using their charitable status applied for. In addition to funded projects, OASES charge for services such as teacher training.
9. Growing Together – This programme working through 4 schools with children and their families was successful. Children in Need have asked OASES to apply for further funding to work with a different group of schools over 3 years.
10. Lumiere 2017
 - a. Cosmoscope (14 schools). This programme has worked with Artichoke and Durham University linked to one of this years installations about the Universe. It was kindly supported by a number of Councillors through their budgets.
 - b. Start (10 schools). This programme partly funded by Children and the Arts (with additional contributions from schools and Councillor budgets) will develop a legacy aspect to this years Lumiere. Ten schools will attend this years festival and will then work with the Oriental Museum and OASES to develop artwork over the coming year.
11. Active Learning – accredited teacher CPD promoting the benefits of outdoor learning on pupil achievement and wellbeing
12. Forest Schools Plus – this is a whole school approach to the implementation of Forest Schools which is widely supported by schools across the County
13. Street Trees – This new programme will work with schools and community organisations to investigate air quality and climate issues within Derwent Valley AAP.
14. Lost Landscapes and Learning – This new programme funded by the Heritage Lottery fund, is working in partnership with CEED and Durham Wildlife Trust initially for a year. If successful, it will be rolled out across County Durham and Sunderland.
15. Learning Licence with Hamsterley Forest – OASES continues to support schools to get the most out of their visits to the Forest. Sessions can be led by OASES staff or self-led by schools
16. Fruit-full Communities (with YMCA) – This national programme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and is working with YMCA groups in Barnard Castle and Fencehouses supporting the young people to develop areas in their communities and plant fruit trees and bushes.

Recommendation

17. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the wide range of initiatives being developed and offered to schools across the County.

Background Papers

A short presentation updated from the original session in April to be issued.

Rich Hurst, Education Development Advisor – Sustainability

Richard.hurst@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing – These programmes are staff intensive. The in-school support for the School Carbon Reduction programme is funded by schools buying into the Energy SLA. The other programmes are funded separately through various sources (external and DCC grants).

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None

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Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee



11 December 2017

Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP)

Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background information to members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) prior to a presentation by Calum Baker, Business Energy Efficiency Project Manager.

Background

2. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of its work programme receives progress reports on ESIF low carbon funding and detail of various initiatives in the county as a result of this funding. The last report was provided to the committee at the meeting on 18 November 2016.
3. The progress report contained detail of the BEEP and members at that meeting requested that as part of the future work programme of the committee arrangements be made for a presentation on this project. It was also suggested that members may also want to include in their future work programme a visit to some of the local businesses who have benefitted from this project.
4. At the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 14 July 2017 members agreed the work programme of the committee for 2017/18 which includes a visit on the 15 February to various local businesses who have benefitted from the BEEP.
5. Arrangements have been made for Calum Baker, Business Energy Efficiency Project Manager, to attend the meeting on the 11 December 2017 and deliver a presentation providing a holistic view of the project including project specific branded materials, economic benefits and outputs, and an update on several developments which are expanding the reach of BEEP into national best practice and leading a national level trial

Business Energy Efficiency Project

6. This DCC led project bid was submitted in September 2015 and the Funding Agreement was signed in August 2016, making this the very first low carbon

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project in the North East LEP region and one of the very first in the UK.

7. BEEP provides an intensive package of support for SMEs on energy efficiency, renewable energy and business resilience to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bottom line costs, enhancing competitiveness and supporting business growth.
8. One to one best practice support, and expert technical advice will be provided, backed by an interactive website, social and print media promotions and a programme of peer to peer business events.. Bespoke and in-depth SME energy audits and financial support package in the form of Grant support encourages and enables SMEs to take up no/low cost measures and to install appropriate technologies. The key outputs are: 240 SMEs supported and a reduction of greenhouses gases.
9. BEEP has been structured to provide direct support to each SMEs that participates. Each team member takes the time to build a relationship with the SME, to learn about their business operations, their requirements (and future requirements) and their energy related pressures.
10. BEEP has proved particularly popular since launching. An up-to-date breakdown of current performance and expenditure will be provided during the presentation. We have a close working relationship with Business Durham and their EU funded SME project the Durham Business Opportunities Programme (DBOP). This relationship allows the projects to cross refer participants and increases the promotional and engagement range of both projects.
11. The Project also works with promotional support from the NECC and FSB.
12. BEEP is currently leading an engagement enhancement trial. The trial has brought together projects who all target SMEs within County Durham, and who are mostly time limited. We have joined with Durham Savers, DBOP, the Better Health at Work Awards and Durham Works to build a structure where all projects have access to a handout which provides introductory information (and contact details) about all other projects. The principle is that as all projects push forward delivering their outputs, they automatically promote the other projects through the handout, hopefully this will result in SMEs choosing to participate in projects they may not otherwise have, and access support packages they may have otherwise have missed. The trials success is being monitored as to its cost effectiveness.
13. BEEP is in operation until September 2019 when EU funding support ends.
14. Seen as a regional leader, the Project was asked to support the other local authorities in the NE LEP area to build their own version of BEEP. Their combined project was submitted in July 2017. BEEP provided guidance and supported through lessons learned to their bid team.

Recommendation

15. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the content of the report and presentation.

Background papers:

EU Funding – progress report- Environment OSC – 16 November 2016

Contact: Calum Baker, Business Energy Efficiency Project Manager
Tel: 03000 265548

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Not meeting output targets will result in clawback resulting in less EU funds received by DCC

Staffing – None. All officers except Project Manager are on time limited contracts financially supported by incoming EU funds

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None