

## **8 UNIVERSAL HOME INSULATION SCHEME (AN122-2010)**

The Committee is asked to note that four areas in Dundee, which contain a mix of Council and ex-Council properties, have been chosen for inclusion in the Scottish Government's new Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS). The Scottish Government (as part of its Energy Assistance Package - EAP) has granted the Council £250,000. Together with £250,000 of CERT monies (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) from Scottish Hydro Electric, this will allow loft and cavity-wall insulation to be carried out in a total of 727 properties.

The areas in question are Crescent Lane, Hilltown West, Watson Street and Wellgate. Unlike previous HIS schemes, this universal scheme offers free insulation to all tenants and owners in an area, regardless of their income or who their fuel supplier is. It has not previously been possible to carry out insulation in these areas because funding has been insufficient to cover the high cost of scaffolding. Also, particularly in Watson Street and Hilltown West, it has proved difficult to carry out work for Council tenants in cases where cavities are mutual with owner occupiers. The universal nature of funding for UHIS and the fact that it contains an 'enabling fund' to cover such things as scaffolding and loft-clearance, gives the Council a unique opportunity to insulate properties in these areas.

The work will be carried out between now and the end of March 2011. The contractor Scottish Hydro Electric has chosen to carry out this work is Clyde Insulation. The Council has worked in partnership with Scottish Hydro Electric and Clyde in the past and the service they have offered both tenants and owners has been very good.

In addition to insulation which will make it cheaper and easier for residents to keep their homes warm, the Council is offering every resident a home visit during which they will be given a full energy efficiency and income maximisation check. These visits will be made by staff from Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project (DEEAP) and will be carried out just after the insulation has been installed. DEEAP staff will also give all householders a Real-time Display Unit (provided by Scottish Hydro) which is a small device that will allow them to keep track of electricity use in their home and to identify those appliances which are particularly heavy in energy use.