

**REPORT TO:** HOUSING, DUNDEE CONTRACT SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 7 DECEMBER 2009

**REPORT ON:** WIDER ROLE ALLIANCE FUNDING APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL DEEAP STAFF

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

**REPORT NO.:** 601-2009

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The report outlines the need for enhanced energy efficiency advice in the City, funded through the Dundee Wider Role Alliance to increase staffing levels in the Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project (DEEAP).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is asked to agree to:

- 2.1. The expansion of the Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project (DEEAP) provision in the City.
- 2.2. Agree a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Dundee Wider Role Alliance (DWRA) to enhance current DEEAP service provision in the City.
- 2.3. Agree that the projects meet the criteria, i.e. to spend the funds on energy efficiency works or services in line with the SLA.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. No financial implications are anticipated. DWRA will finance the post for one year. To provide a service as outlined in the Service Level Agreement DEEAP will charge the DWRA £18 per hour which includes expenses based on current DEEAP costs plus a 10% management fee. The total service hours for the project will be in the region of 2,800 at a cost of £50,400. Project set up costs are estimated at £2,000 and are for a computer, desk, chair etc. which will be returned to DWRA at the end of the project.

This gives a total anticipated full project costing of £52,400.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. Dundee Wider Role Alliance has submitted a funding proposal to the Housing & Regeneration Directorate for a DWRA/DEEAP Energy Efficiency Partnership project for 2009-2011. The members of the WRA are Abertay, Angus, Hillcrest, Home Scotland, Margaret Blackwood, Sanctuary Scotland and Servite Housing Associations.

- 4.2. The aim of the project is to form a working relationship under a Service Level Agreement with the Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project (DEEAP). The partnership will enable the DWRA to contribute more effectively to the provision of services aimed at tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions and to initiatives aimed at the growth of affordable credit.
- 4.3. The aims and objectives of this agreement are to:
- Ensure the delivery of an energy advice service to housing association tenants.
  - Participate in the delivery of an option for affordable credit to housing association tenants.
  - Contribute to the reduction of tenants suffering fuel poverty.
  - Maximise the income of housing association tenants.
- 4.4. Through a SLA the DWRA wish to buy the services provided by DEEAP to provide the following for tenants of registered social landlords:
- New tenant energy health checks, particularly to those identified as being most at risk through Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's).
  - Vulnerable tenant energy health checks to those identified as likely to be most at risk such as elderly, disabled, low income households.
  - A dedicated impartial advice and information service on all aspects of energy use.
  - An energy efficient White Goods Loan Initiative in partnership with Discovery Credit Union.
- 4.5. To tackle fuel poverty, no single measure is sufficient. DEEAP's current range of effective programmes and measures that have been put in place include:
- Programmes to improve energy efficiency.
  - Focus on fuel bills, ensuring fair treatment for the disadvantaged.
  - Continuing action to tackle fuel poverty and increase incomes.
  - Supporting industry initiatives to combat fuel poverty.
- 4.6. The benefits of disadvantaged families seeking energy advice will enable them to be in control of their energy expenditure and comfort.
- 4.7. DEEAP currently provides a service to all residents of Dundee, including all social housing tenants. However, this funding will allow the service to expand by taking on an additional member of staff.

## 5. **MONITORING**

- 5.1. Note that to facilitate co-ordination, quarterly meetings will be held between the Council and representatives of the DWRA to ensure targets are being met and the project is delivering its objectives.
- 5.2. The worker will be based at DEEAP's office at Shore Terrace and will be supervised by the Senior Energy Advisor. In practice all the energy advisors will cover the work rather than just having one "RSL worker" as this is the most efficient method of delivering the service. However, the work will be monitoring against the required outputs.

6. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. This report has been screened for any policy implications sustainability, strategic environmental assessment and equality impact assessment. There are no major issues.

7. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1. The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive and all Chief Officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report. There are no major issues.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. None.

Elaine Zwirlein  
**DIRECTOR OF HOUSING**

November 2009