

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL
(Report by Head of Environmental Health Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek cabinet approval for the development of a new partnership for the promotion of home energy efficiency between the Council and Enact Energy Management Ltd (Enact), a company with experience in accessing funds available to householders from the major power companies.

2. SUPPORTING/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires the Council to work towards a 30% improvement in home energy efficiency by 2010 from the 1996 baseline and to make annual progress reports.
- 2.2 The Council identified the measures we considered to be relevant to this requirement in its Energy Conservation Report November 1996. This report identified that energy efficiency promotion would be an essential component of our strategy.
- 2.3 The details of the proposed partnership are set out at the annex to this report.
- 2.4 Enact Energy Management Ltd have existing local partnerships with East Cambridgeshire District Council and Peterborough City Council.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council. Our Energy Efficiency staff will be involved in promotional activities through this partnership or through other initiatives.
- 3.2 Through letter drops and promotional activities the partnership is expected to make grant funding available from London Electric more easily accessible to local residents and will contribute to the drive to reduce fuel poverty.
- 3.3 Letters sent out by Enact to local residents will carry the Council's logo. In return for the Council's endorsement of the scheme, Enact will provide feedback on uptake, which will help with our annual reports to DEFRA on progress with home energy efficiency as required by HECA.
- 3.4 The Council will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with Enact. This is not a contract but does allow Enact to use the Council's logo on their letters for the purpose of promoting this scheme. A copy of the memorandum is attached to this report.
- 3.5 Householders would be asked to make a financial contribution to the cost of the measures installed. Those residents on passport benefits

will qualify for certain energy efficiency measures free of charge through the governments Warm Front scheme.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This scheme has benefits for local residents and will involve no cost to the Council.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 **It is recommended that cabinet approve this new partnership and authorise the Head of Environmental Health Services to sign the memorandum of understanding with Enact Energy Management Ltd.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995
Energy Conservation Report dated 30 November 1996

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

1. Improved energy efficiency in domestic properties is encouraged because CO₂ emissions are lowered, fuel poverty lessened and the quality of the housing stock improved by reducing the effects of damp and condensation.
2. Funding for improvements such as cavity wall insulation (CWI) and loft insulation (LI) is made available to householders through the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) funding stream. This is maintained from funds the power companies are obliged, by the Government, to provide. However many people are not aware of the funding available or believe that financial assistance is only available to those in receipt of benefits.
3. It is proposed that Enact Energy Management Ltd manage a scheme, on HDC's behalf, which uses funds from London Electric. Under the scheme Enact Energy Management Ltd would mail-shot all householders in the district. Letters would carry the council logo. This type of approach has proved successful elsewhere. It has been suggested that the increased take up could result in 300-400 energy improvements each year.
4. There will be no cost to some households; which is particularly important in addressing fuel poverty. Those households in receipt of an income related or disability related benefit would be eligible to have energy efficiency measures installed for free under the Warm Front Scheme.
5. The Council's support of the scheme is important, by carrying the Council's logo, the scheme is seen as more credible by residents. The association also helps to allay fears of rogue traders being involved.
6. To ensure that any works are done to a high quality, Enact Energy Management Ltd undertake to monitor 5% of all installations. They will also act as mediator between the householder and installer in cases of dispute.
7. In return for using the council's logo and our promotional activity Enact Energy Management Ltd will provide a detailed end of year report of work completed and energy saved as well as regular updates.
8. Neighbouring local authorities including Peterborough and East Cambs are already involved in the HEAT-CAMBS scheme. It is anticipated HDC will be able to benefit from joint promotions.
9. In April 2005 the rules concerning EEC funding are due to change and the amount of funding available from the power companies is anticipated to double. This could allow the scheme to evolve. An extended scheme could provide assistance towards installation of condensing boilers and the use of new materials, which would be more suitable for insulating conservation properties.

- 10.** This scheme is targeted mainly at owner-occupied and private rented sectors. For those households, which have the potential to be affected by fuel poverty referrals will be made to Warm Front where the applicant is eligible for financial assistance.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
Enact Energy Management Ltd and Huntingdonshire District Council

It is currently within the marketing proposals of Enact Energy Management Ltd (EEML) to operate the HEAT Project insulation programme within the geographical boundary of Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC)

In due consideration of this:

- 1) That HDC will give officer support for the HEAT Project within their area.
- 2) That HDC will allow EEML free of charge use of their logo, by way of endorsement of the scheme, for the sole purpose of promoting the scheme. The Council may withdraw such consent by notice in writing at any time.
- 3) That HDC will endeavour to provide details of the HEAT Project and its freephone contact number to enquirers to the Council whenever appropriate.
- 4) That EEML will promote the scheme within the area including activities such as direct mailing and other appropriate advertising.
- 5) That EEML provide HDC with appropriate copy for comment of all advertising material prior to publication. HDC will endeavour to advise of any necessary amendments within a reasonable timescale to allow the advertising deadlines to be fulfilled.
- 6) That EEML will provide HDC with a full Energy Report on the measures installed under the project within HDC's area for HECA purposes
- 7) That EEML will meet all of the cost of the primary leaflet drop, printing, project management and installations. Any costs attributable to HDC for any services provided by EEML, will be subject to prior agreement in writing with and at the discretion of HDC

Signed on behalf of HDC

Position

Date

Signed on behalf of EEML

Position

Date