

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	COMMUNITIES,HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE
DATE	15 th March 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Healthy Homes
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/033
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to

Seek approval for delivery of ERDF Funded (Scottish Cities Alliance – Scotland’s 8th City) project for fibre to the premises (FTTP) and energy management sensor solutions in multi-tenant properties.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Committee approves £360,000 capital spend from the Accelerate Aberdeen budget to deliver Warm and Healthy Housing to attract a further £240,000 of European investment to be spent by December 2018.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

£360,000 capital spend from the Accelerate Aberdeen budget over financial years 2016/17 – 2017/18. Procurements and delivery will be designed to avoid state aid implications and CPS and Legal services advice will be sought at the appropriate time.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

This programme may open up (but does not require) additional work streams in the joint health and social care and across public sector service delivery.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Fibre connections to vulnerable households to support fuel poverty, health and social interventions.

Committee are requested to approve £360,000 spend from the Accelerate Aberdeen capital budget to draw a further £240,000 match funding from ERDF funds through the Scottish Cities Alliance “Scotland’s Eighth City” programme. Accelerate Aberdeen are now working with the Digital Transformation team within the IT and Transformation service

The project will seek to connect homes, with a primary focus on fibre technologies, to a robust always on network to enable smart remote data monitoring to measure the internal temperatures and energy use of the buildings. An aligned opportunity will allow the development of a business model supporting domestic broadband connectivity. Such an offer would require to be framed within State Aid regulations.

Monitoring the energy usage and indoor temperatures, and making this information securely and ethically accessible in agreement with system participants, will benefit a variety of stakeholders such as the council, national government, householders, Health and Social Care Services, Academia, Energy Agencies, Third Sector Organisations amongst others. The real time and historical data can be used to inform stakeholders and help provide better services to ensure householders are living in warm, comfortable healthy homes.

We propose to install the Broadband and monitoring equipment into the following properties

1– 52 Meadow Court a multi-storey building connected to our CHP Heat Network, where householders pay fixed rate charge for heating

1-52 Tillydrone Court a multi-storey building with 52 flats connected to our CHP Heat Network, where householders pay fixed rate charge for heating.

1A-24F Alexander Terrace-120 flats contained with 20 tenement buildings, heated by gas central heating where householder’s bills pay metered charge for heating fuel (gas) supply.

All the properties are within 2 data zones in the Tillydrone neighbourhood of the city and are ranked in the lowest decile in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The health and education domains are ranked in the lowest 5% nationally.

This is a project to pilot our approach to delivering smarter solutions to help householders and local communities within our more deprived areas. By giving access to fibre broadband, and monitoring temperature we can help more vulnerable households be better connected, bringing social inclusion, improved access to education, improved physical and mental health and affordable warmth. In turn this will allow the council and other stakeholders to make more informed decisions, make pro-active interventions, reduce service costs, and maximise energy efficiency.

Social benefits

This project will provide access to broadband for those currently excluded through affordability of connection and rental costs. Access to broadband, as a result of the energy monitoring programme, will help support life long-learning, digital literacy, health and economic literacy also. These will be delivered through the on-going community engagement programme.

Visits from appropriately trained Energy Advisors will be offered to all those not heating their home adequately. During this visit they will be able to identify underlying issues related to income, education or health and refer on to other agencies, maximising the benefit to the householder. Living in a cold, under heated dwelling will cause issues with dampness and condensation which can lead to the occupants discouraging or excluding social visitors to their home; a warm healthy home will help address this issue.

Information on temperatures can be used by GPs and health staff to help diagnose health related problems. Health and social care workers can monitor temperatures for people who have health issues detrimentally affected by inadequately heated homes, or overheated homes.

Environmental benefits

Understanding the levels to which people heat their homes, and use electricity, will help us tailor behavioural energy efficiency advice more effectively. It will help householders understand how their behaviour affects their running costs. We will be able to assess the effectiveness of energy advice by post intervention, monitoring of temperatures and energy use.

Our Heat Network Operator can use the information to help control the network more efficiently, reducing fuel use.

Economic benefits

The on-going community engagement programme will lead to economic literacy and enhance social outcomes (employment, health etc.) leading to improved overall economic performance of the community and individuals.

Electric use information can be utilised by householder (with support from Energy Advice Team if required) to ensure the best deal for energy supply. Furthermore analysis of the data can help the Heat Network Operator run the Heat Network more efficiently- reducing cost of fuel.

Data can also be used to provide more informed and effective services across all sectors.

Improved energy efficiency and warmer homes will help people stay healthy and reduce repeat GP or hospital visits, reducing the impact on health service costs.

Partners in the project will be responsible for security of the information and manage it under existing data protection laws. The engagement programme on-going in the area includes the development of ethical standards of engagement and data management.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

This project will seek, at conclusion, to provide affordable access to broadband for those currently excluded through affordability of connection and rental costs. Access to broadband, as a result of the energy monitoring programme, will help support life long-learning, digital literacy, health and economic literacy also. These will be delivered through the on-going community engagement programme.

Visits from appropriately trained Energy Advisors will be offered to all those not heating their home adequately. During this visit they will be able to identify underlying issues related to income, education or health and refer on to other agencies, maximising the benefit to the householder. Living in a cold, under heated dwelling will cause issues with dampness and condensation which can lead to the occupants discouraging or excluding social visitors to their home; a warm healthy home will help address this issue.

Where agreed with the service user, information on temperatures can be used by GPs and health staff to help diagnose health related problems. Health and social care workers can monitor temperatures for people who have health issues detrimentally affected by inadequately heated homes, or overheated homes.

An on-going community engagement programme will lead to economic literacy and enhance social outcomes (employment, health etc.) leading to improved overall economic performance of the community and individuals.

Improving Staff Experience –

Staff will have access to accurate data to understand how clients maintain their environment. Residents agreeing to the scheme will also have ready access to a range of support information and services through the connected portal supporting better outcomes during engagements with council staff.

Improving our use of Resources –

The project will provide indicators on the impact of physical environments, health issues and citizen behaviours with which to

understand how better to heat and maintain housing stock, leading to a reduced impact on the environment and lower resource use.

Corporate -

Aberdeen City Council also has several key strategic priorities which this project would correspond to, notably the Digital Place Strategy that is currently under development. Also the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP), Smart Aberdeen 2020, Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), Carbon Management Programme and the Single Outcome Agreement.. The project would also correlate to the work being undertaken by Accelerate Aberdeen who are working towards making Aberdeen a super connected city.

Single Outcome Agreement

The Thematic Priorities and Outcomes for Aberdeen which are enhanced through this project include:

Health and Wellbeing

- Reduced inequalities in healthy life expectancy and improved physical and mental health through increased physical activity.
- Improved mental and physical health and social inclusion of long-term unemployed by equal access to employability opportunities.

Older People

- Older people in Aberdeen have increased independence.

Digital City

- Aberdeen is digitally connected ensuring equal opportunity of access to services for all people and support for business development.

Environmental Sustainability

- Aberdeen is an energy efficient city, with high quality open spaces, a natural environment and low levels of pollution and waste.

Target those most in need

- Deprivation is reduced, resulting in the closure of outcome gaps within Aberdeen's population.

Public –

This report will have significant public interest as providing a model to address fuel poverty and with implications for health and environmental outcomes.

The project will act as a model to identify the value of market interventions and engagement in providing our disadvantaged communities with world class connectivity as a means of addressing deprivations and improving public service delivery.

The location has been identified as one where existing council assets and community need provide a cost effective match to deliver such a pilot.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Additional costs for civil construction works to deliver fibre connections

Mitigation: We have chosen locations close to core network Backhaul and work is on-going in one of the locations which will allow for pre-planned routes within the application.

Getting householder agreement to the Energy Monitoring

Mitigation: A one to one home visit to clearly explain the processes and allay any fears or misconception about the use of the data. Subsidy broadband only offered to those participating in the energy management scheme. We will also encourage 'Champions' within the community and our Community Liaison Officers will work with households and community

Householder agreement to data use beyond home monitoring.

The initial engagement described above will be complimented by engagements with the community through the ongoing collaboration programme between ACC, University of Aberdeen and the Future City Catapult. This will provide the opportunity for residents to engage in the design of further programmes of activity building on improved digital connectivity.

Interference with monitoring equipment

Mitigation: The monitoring equipment used as part of this process will be as far as possible "tamper proof". For householders who have regular visits from support services, the House Visitor will be asked if they can check monitors, for other householders visits will be carried out periodically as part of this pilot project.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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