

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 18 FEBRUARY 2010

SUBJECT: MORAY ENERGY EFFICIENCY FAIR & BIOMASS INFORMATION EVENT

BY: MORAY COUNCIL – CHAIR OF GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to update the Community Engagement Group on the Moray Energy Efficiency Fair and Biomass Information Event falling within the Greener Strategic Group remit.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group notes:**

- (i) Progress on the arrangements of the Moray Energy Efficiency Fair, and**
- (ii) Details for the Biomass Information Event**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report was submitted to the Greener Strategic Group on 21 January 2010 (Item 8 of the agenda), updating them on the progress of the arrangements for the Moray Energy Efficiency Fair and giving details of the Biomass Information Event.
- 3.2 The Greener Strategic Group agreed at their meeting on 8 October 2009 to preparations being made for a Seminar to promote renewable energy in Moray. Arrangements have been made to hold a Seminar on 24 March 2010 in the Elgin Town Hall. The event will focus on the opportunities for energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in residential properties. This event will also allow businesses to explore the opportunities to provide services to the residential market.
- 3.3 Funding for the event has been secured from a number of partners and amounts received are as follows:

Moray Council	£1000
HIE	£1000
LEADER	£1000

Energy Trust Scotland £1000
Forestry Commission Scotland £ 600

- 3.4 The development of Biomass is taking place in Moray although there are different views on the benefits and practicalities of installation and maintenance of Biomass schemes. It is felt that there is a need to provide further information on the opportunities available, the practicalities and benefits of Biomass schemes and a number of agencies and Partners have been contacted in order to collect and disseminate such information and advice. Representatives of adjoining Councils and public agencies are to be invited to provide information to The Moray Council and Community Planning Partners. The meeting will take place in the afternoon of the 2 March 2010 in the Council Chambers.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**
The promotion and development of Renewable Energy and Biomass will help achieve the Scottish Government objective relating to climate change.

- (b) **Policy and Legal**
None

- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**
Financial
There will be a cost in arranging the Seminar; this will be met by The Moray Council and Community Planning Partners as described above.

Staffing
The arrangements for the Seminar and a presentation on Biomass will be undertaken by Staff of The Moray Council and relevant Partners.

- (d) **Consultations**
None

5. CONCLUSION

The Community Engagement Group is asked to note the Progress on the arrangements of the Renewable Energy Seminar and the details for the Biomass Information Event.

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Background Papers: Report to & decision of meeting of Greener Strategic Group 21 January 2010
Ref: HB: 734535