

REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 21 JANUARY 2010

SUBJECT: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SEMINAR

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Group on progress with the arrangements for a Seminar in 2010 on renewable energy, and to advise on research being undertaken on the subject of Biomass developments by public sector agencies.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Group notes progress on the arrangements for a Seminar, the research on Biomass, and that the Group makes any suggestions as to how the use of Biomass could be promoted amongst public agencies within Moray.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Group agreed in October 2009 that preparations be made for a Seminar to promote renewable energy in Moray. This was following a successful Seminar which provided information and advice to local business on energy efficiency and related matters. Arrangements have been made to hold a Seminar on 24 March 2010 in Elgin Town Hall. That event will focus on the opportunities for energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in residential properties, the event will also allow businesses to explore the opportunities to provide services to the residential market. An update on the proposals will be given at the meeting of the Group on 21st January.
- 3.2 The development on 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 known that Biomass schemes have been successfully implemented elsewhere within Scotland, including within adjoining council areas, and by public sector agencies, some of whom are members of the Moray Community Planning Partnership. 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; Community Planning Partners will be invited to attend this meeting. The Group is invited to comment on the use of Biomass, and to provide any additional advice and sources of information which might be relevant to clarify any issues relating to Biomass developments.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the Group in October 2009 it was agreed that the Group support preparation and development of a Moray Renewable Energy Strategy Planning Guidance. The progress on this work has been delayed because of staff resources, in particular the absence of a Council officer on maternity leave. Work on this project will commence when that officer returns from maternity leave in May 2010. If other Partners within the Group are able to

take this forward then that would be welcomed, and they should contact Stewart Halkett to offer any assistance.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) COMMUNITY PLAN, THEME PLANS, PARTNER PLANS

The promotion and development of renewable energy, energy efficiency and Biomass will help achieve the Scottish Government objective relating to climate change, and the Single Outcome Agreement.

(b) POLICY AND LEGAL

There are no policy or legal implications arising from this proposal.

(c) RESOURCES

FINANCIAL

There will be a cost in arranging the Seminar, this will be met by The Moray Council and Community Planning Partners.

STAFFING

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

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Seminar should provide information and encourage the increased attention to energy efficiency, and development of renewable technology in Moray. This could be accompanied by clarification of the use of Biomass within public sector agencies, and further development of this technology.**

Author of Report: Stewart Halkett, Head of Development Services

Background Papers:

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