

REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP – 15th APRIL 2010

SUBJECT: AWARENESS RAISING OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS, SOURCES AND BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This Report is submitted to the Group to advise members of the Group of the progress relating to awareness raising of alternative fuels, sources and building requirements. A separate report on the monitoring of progress on Quarter 3 of SOA Key Action Updates is on the agenda for this Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **It is recommended that the Greener Strategic Group agrees in principle to arrange a Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar in 2010, and agrees the general content and arrangements for that Seminar.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) contains the National Outcome 14 "We reduce the Local and Global environmental impact of our consumption and production". The Local Delivery Action Plan contains a key action "Awareness raising of alternative fuels, sources and building techniques". That key action includes a number of milestones, relating to the research, discussion, and provision of information and advice relating to alternative fuels; sustainable construction techniques; renewables strategy; and associated performance indicators. The details of these milestones and due dates are set out in the report "Single Outcome Agreements 2009/10 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Statements" which is another item on the agenda for this Group.

3.2 This report will explain progress on the appropriate matters relating to raising awareness.

3.3 The proposed Green Business Seminar was held on 15th September, and this has achieved that project and target.

3.4 A Moray Energy Efficiency Fair was held on 24th March 2010. This was later than the due date of 31st December 2009, and therefore that project and target date will show complete achievement during Quarter 4. There is a separate report on the Energy Efficiency Fair on the agenda for the meeting of this Group.

3.5 There was a meeting of representatives of the Community Planning Partnership on 2nd March, in The Moray Council Chambers, to hear presentations on Biomass, and to discuss the subject. This was later than the due date of 31st December 2009, and will therefore be considered as having achieved the project in Quarter 4.

3.6 There are four milestones relating to collection of data, adoption of energy efficiency targets and objectives for existing buildings. Some of these have

been achieved later than the due dates, but all will show achievement during Quarter 4.

- 3.7 The projects which have been completed have, in some cases, been later than the initial due date. This has been as a result of a combination of factors such as co-ordinating arrangements and finding accommodation, sponsorship and attendance at seminars or events, or obtaining data from a wide range of sources and allocating resources to collating and recording that data in the appropriate systems.
- 3.8 One aspect of the key actions which has not yet been arranged is the Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar. Resources have been allocated up to now to arrange Seminars on "green business", Biomass, and "Moray Energy Efficiency Fair". It was felt appropriate to consider each seminar sequentially and make arrangements for future seminars using the experience and outcomes of seminars which have already been held. The proposal is therefore that the consideration of a Seminar for "Sustainable Construction Techniques", be considered at a later date during 2010, when further research into the topic has been achieved, and it can take account of the experience and outcomes of the three earlier seminars. The investigation into the topic and arrangements for a seminar will not take place until appropriate resources including staff and financial contributions are in place. Within The Moray Council this will depend on available budgets and the availability of a possible lead officer following a return to work from extended leave. This proposal can be discussed further by the Greener Strategic Group, and guidance and possible timescales agreed for a seminar if it is to be held. The risk in any delay of holding a Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar is that proposals for alterations to existing buildings or new buildings may be progressed without maximising the benefits of Sustainable Construction Techniques. Any proposals which are the subject of Planning Applications or Building Warrants will continue to be assessed against the appropriate policies, guidance and regulations. This will meet the required standards, but there may be opportunities for proposals and buildings which exceed those standards, and this will be subject to the initiative of the developers or negotiations with representatives of the Council or other agencies when considering those proposals.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The remaining project and milestone which has not been achieved within Quarter 3 is that of arranging for a Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar. The Greener Group could consider whether such a Seminar should be held, the scope and possible arrangements for such a Seminar, how the Group will jointly contribute to the arrangements for the Seminar, and possible timescales and availability of resources. Any initial discussions by the Group on 15th April could then be developed by members of the Group and provisional arrangements made, with a further report to the Group, at it's next meeting in August 2010.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) COMMUNITY PLAN, THEME PLANS, PARTNER PLANS

The completion of existing targets and milestones achieves a number of objectives or proposals within the various Plans, the remaining project for Quarter 3 relating to Sustainable Construction Techniques would be a further contribution to those Plans.

(b) POLICY AND LEGAL

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

(c) RESOURCES

The implementation of the various proposals within the SOA and Action Plans depends on the availability of staff, financial and other resources of the members of the Greener Group, or the wider Community Planning Partnership. The current achievements have been progressed using the staff resources and limited budgets and contributions by a number of agencies. Any arrangements for a future Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar will also depend on staff resources and budgets being made available from Community Planning Partners.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Progress on the targets and milestones for, and leading up to Quarter 3, have been achieved except for the arrangements for a Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar. Three other seminars have been held during Quarters 2 and 3, and these have been successful. The remaining target is for a Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar, as yet no preparatory work has been undertaken for this, and this will require to be postponed until staff resources and budgets are available, along with any other arrangements for holding the Seminar. The Group can consider whether to continue with this Seminar, and if so what the content and arrangements should be.**

Author of Report: Stewart Halkett, Head of Development Services

Background Papers:

Ref: