

Report of the Council Representative on the Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP)

11 December 2012

I attended by my first YEP meeting in 17 October 2012; I will give a very brief summary of the business of the day and expand on a number of the areas raised on the day within this report.

- **The day to day operations of the YEP were under threat from the landlord of their George Hudson St premises, who was threatening a rent increase going forward and was unable to offer more accommodation within the same building.**

It was agreed that a move to other premises that would allow further expansion of the Green Deal staff was the preferred route and it was agreed that an option at a lower cost to the current premises should be fully explored. YEP have now moved to Tower House a larger premise at the same cost as the current rent.

- **The current server for the IT systems was starting to fail and causing operational issues.**

It was agreed that this should be investigated further post the move of premises (Ongoing)

- **Finances**

Generally finances looked healthy but some funding was still awaiting transfer from the central bodies concerned. This was being pursued to ensure that all funding would be in place by the next board meeting 16/1/13.

- **Green Deal roll out and delivery options.**

A number of delivery options were discussed going forward however central funding is currently delayed.

- 1) YEP train property surveyors and offer this as a service.
- 2) YEP train auditors and offer this as a service.
- 3) YEP act as advisor to the energy providers and third party installers.
- 4) YEP offer to focus funding on behalf of the energy providers.

The initial proposal was to train a number of YEP employees to act as surveyors and auditors and try and market this as an option to installers and energy companies. I challenged this methodology when the funding had not yet been released and also why YEP would want to place themselves in a position that would jeopardise their independence. An opportunity existed to act as an independent auditor of all surveys and works carried out and would be of greater benefit to the communities that we represented. This would allow YEP to charge for this service which the energy suppliers would have to have in place anyway. YEP could also sell their knowledge base of the area which identifies the poorer property areas those with solid walls(4600) and also those within conservation areas. This knowledge would help target the available funding to the areas of greatest benefit and those properties with the greatest energy saving potential.

It was widely agreed that this was the correct way forward and adopted pending further talks with the energy suppliers.

Current Green Deal funding is dependent on contributions from a number of bodies and the release of that funding has been delayed on a number of occasions. This is expected to be resolved over the next 4-6 weeks.

- **Staff pay review.**

It was agreed that the current pay freeze was a factor in the high staff turnover with a lot of staff leaving to work for energy advisory services. A one off cost of living rise was agreed.

- **Second Quarter full report delayed.**

The report was delayed pending funds being transferred and a full and complete report will be circulated amongst the board in November/December.

Please accept my report and find below useful links for further information.

Yorkshire Energy Partnership:

http://www.yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk/index.php?route=page/view&page_id=67

Green Deal Information:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

HDC Support:

http://www.hambleton.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2021:home-energy-saving-advice&catid=98:environment-a-planning

Councillor Steve Watson

Council Representative on the Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP)