

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

9 April 2013

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the last meeting on 16 January 2013 but have spoken to the chairman and a number of the members and below is a summary of the key points raised:

- **The day to day operations of the YEP have now moved to Tower House**

Tower House is a larger premise at the same cost as the previous premises but allows for any potential future growth at the same level of rent.

- **The IT system is still having issues despite being new**

It was agreed that this should be investigated further to ensure a quick response to the remaining issues. (Ongoing)

- **Finances**

EM summarised the budget sheets. It was noted that the Green Deal was not showing on the budgets just yet as Hugh Cripps CEO wants to be sure of an income stream first before adding this. (This is a common issue across all energy partnerships).

In connection with the Local Authority CERT pots, it was proposed that it could be best to reinvest the money in new projects to be delivered by YEP instead of just spending it on insulation measures as this would provide YEP with an opportunity to grow and with ECO and the Green Deal now starting, there was alternative funding for insulation works.

The chairman requested a position statement as if nothing changes it looks like YEP have a maximum of 4-5 years left and mentioned managing redundancies.

We have a minimum balance holding that includes an amount to cover redundancies in that event. Current projections show we can operate for a further 2-3 years but we are looking at ECO funding and other projects to ensure a financially sustainable long term future. The Board need to think about diversifying into other income streams to reduce our vulnerability. This is something to be put on a future agenda.

All local authority representatives raised the ongoing challenge to budgets within their districts.

- **Green Deal**

Generally Green Deal seems to be stumbling nationally due to a confidence issue. YEP need to get feedback and gather the data from other bodies so as to evaluate the information.

Money has now become available to the University's to research this area and we need to look at all the services YEP can offer aside from just installations.

Green Deal workmanship needs to be inspected as poor workmanship means it's not going to fulfil requirements and meet the standards for current Green Deal funding and 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 by the next meeting.

- **Further funding**

We are still awaiting ECO consultation but to date have had good talks with British Gas and EDF. We are confident we will secure ECO funding and hopefully work with Local Authorities to target lead generation.

Key factor to progress is it is hard to build a budget until we have full details of framework i.e. how much will get per property/ per tonne of Carbon. We should have guidance within the next month.

We have received DECC funding to do solid wall projects and are ready to go ahead with insulation. Funding from British Gas is circa £3000 a property and installation is cheaper than expected with only a further £1200 top up required from the DECC grant (this will be put as a debt on the property to only be repaid if and when the house is sold).

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)