

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Cabinet

16th June 2003

Leicester Energy Agency Funding

Report of the Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development

1. Purpose of Report

- a) To update Cabinet on the successful award of European Funded projects through the work of the Leicester Energy Agency (Leicester City Council)
- b) To report the successful application for national funding from the Energy Saving Trust's Innovation Programme.

2. Summary

Leicester Energy Agency has been successful in obtaining funds for the following projects;

i) EU SOL EXHIBITION - European Solar Building Exhibition

€68,000(EC contribution to Leicester)
Duration – 3 years

Integration of solar energy into new building developments and subsequent exhibition to public.

This is an international project carried out simultaneously in 12 EU-partner cities between 2003 and 2005.

Solar and other sustainable energy measures will be integrated into new housing in order to increase the market share of renewable energy and energy efficiency in cost efficient housing and commercial buildings. After completion the buildings will be exhibited for a few weeks. Intensive promotion will motivate home buyers and investors to visit the exhibitions.

Will raise profile of sustainable energy in City developments and will work towards development of Leicester Standard.
(see APPENDIX I)

- ii) Asia Pro Eco
€76,537 (EC Contribution to Leicester)
Duration – 18 months

Partnership support project between Leicester, Rajkot (India) and Gaia (Portugal).

Objectives

To develop framework for renewable energy initiatives

To promote sustainable development through partnerships, citizens involvement and local business.

To reduce negative, energy related, environmental impacts through good practice, developing awareness on alternatives and promoting energy efficiency.

(see APPENDIX II)

- iii) Energy Saving Trust Innovation Programme
£90,000
Duration – 2 years

This finance is for capital improvement to homes plus administration and awareness raising and will be delivered by the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.

A package of measures will be offered to homes which would be paid for partly by a loan scheme and partly through grant aid.

Those measures with longer payback periods will be 'subsidised' by shorter payback measures to reduce the overall payback and enable repayments of loan to be made more easily and allow the loan to be recycled more quickly. This will allow the loan scheme to be used by households on low incomes which fall outside the criteria for existing grant schemes.

Funding for solar panels will also be sourced which would be installed in some of the homes to complete the package of sustainable energy measures, on the basis that an annual rent is paid for the heat generated. The rent is equal to the cost of fuel saved less VAT which will allow low income households to take advantage of this technology.
(see APPENDIX III)

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves the adoption of the above projects and programmes and accept the external funding for the programmes
- Accepts that Leicester Energy Agency will lead and supervise these projects and that they will be reported through the Leicester Energy Agency Board.
- Cabinet approves Press Office release of the good news story highlighting these new funded programmes in Leicester.

4. **Headline Financial and legal Implications**

These projects bring in the following funding to the City;

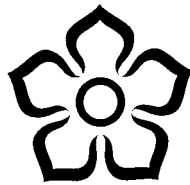
<u>Project</u>	<u>€</u>	<u>£</u>
EU SOL EXHIBITION	68,000	~ 50,320
ASIA PRO ECO	76,537	~ 56,637
EST INNOVATION		90,000
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TOTAL		~ 196,957

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5. **Report Author/Officer to contact: Richard Holmes, Energy Group, x5131**

DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

The Leicester Energy Agency continues to bring finance into the City in pursuit of the goals of Environment City under the management of the Energy Agency Board.

The Leicester Energy Agency was originally formed in 1996 as a partnership between Leicester City council and DeMontfort University. It was originally a three year EC funded project which has become one of the few original EC funded Energy Agencies to survive and expand after the end of the initial funding.

The Energy Agency has developed a reputation within the UK, the EU and beyond and as such is sought after by other European and UK organisations as a partner to work on sustainable energy and resource management projects. As a consequence the Agency continues to bring finance into the City.

The work which will be carried out through the projects mentioned in this report will;

contribute to the Leicester Energy Strategy target which stipulates that 20% of energy use should be provided from renewable sources by the year 2020 and 50% reduction in energy use over the period 1990 to 2025.

promote and deliver sustainable use of energy and resources as set out within the Leicester Community Plan.

contribute to the Public Service Agreement Target on reducing Fuel Poverty in the City.

contribute to addressing environmental issues at a local and global level as part of the Environmental Vision for the City.

2. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Financial Implications

These projects bring in the following funding to the City;

<u>Project</u>	<u>€</u>	<u>£</u>
EU SOL EXHIBITION	68,000	~ 50,320
ASIA PRO ECO	76,537	~ 56,637
EST INNOVATION		90,000
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TOTAL		~ 196,957

2.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

2.3 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	The projects will specifically meet a need to raise awareness in all communities.	
Policy	Yes	These projects will help work towards the Leicester Energy Strategy and fuel Poverty Strategy.	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Energy and resource use in buildings accounts for a major proportion of the City's environmental impact. These projects will go some way to addressing this issue.	
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		

Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Energy bills can account for a large proportion of low income households financial commitments. These projects will help alleviate fuel poverty in new and existing houses.
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3. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

4. Consultations

Leicester Energy Agency Board: 17th April 2003

Key Council officers affected by sustainable energy issues in new and existing developments.

5. Report Author – Richard Holmes, Energy Group, x5131

6. Appendices

1 EU Sol EXHIBITION – european solar building exhibition
Summary document

2 EU ASIA-PRO ECO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

3 INNOVATION PROGRAMME
Leicester Climate Change Rental Package