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## THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ERDF & ESF PROGRAMMES 2007–2013



### Energy Efficiency in **Social Housing** – Initial Guidance for Local Authorities, Housing Associations & Other Applicants

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Support for incorporating new and innovative technologies into social housing developments with the aim of increasing efficiency during operation / use of the buildings.

- ▶ There will be a preference towards applications targeting new build social housing, however applications for measures to improve the existing social housing stock through incorporation of new and innovative technologies will also be considered. Investment in existing housing must be suitably justified and where required carried out in combination with other measures to bring the energy efficiency of the building to an appropriately high standard (e.g. double or triple glazing / improving insulation levels).
- ▶ New and innovative technologies could include equipment/ materials/ construction methods; please note –
  - Equipment costs may include purchase and installation costs. Please note the national rules on eligible equipment costs and staff costs for capital projects.
  - All equipment and materials used should support downstream employment and be sourced sustainably (where possible and subject to value for money, public procurement etc.).
  - Construction materials should only be included as eligible where these would be considered as utilising new technologies and recycled / innovative materials, deliver significant environmental sustainability benefits and preferably utilise locally sourced raw material and end product (i.e. supporting local jobs).

- There will need to be strong justification in terms of supporting local employment, utilising local materials and environmental sustainability to support incorporation of alternative construction methods as an eligible cost.
- ▶ Where possible, projects should encourage establishment of separate initiatives to deliver training for local installation/ maintenance personnel, potentially through development of an ESF project.
- ▶ Based on the returns from each Local Authority, the guide unit cost is expected to be in the region of £5 –10K, in all cases these costs should be justified. Costs may vary from this indicative level if supported by proper justification.
- ▶ ERDF support will be available up to 40% of total eligible costs. These figures are based on the indicative number of units and the approximate level of funding to be allocated to this measure initially discussed by the PRG.
- ▶ Applications should quantify the expected impact in terms of reduction in carbon emissions and other methods of demonstrating or quantifying the ‘greening’ impact appropriate to that project.
- ▶ Applications should clearly set out timescales for delivery and quantify the number of housing units to be included in the project. Proposals need not be confined to a single location but some consideration should be given to critical mass and economies of scale. Projects should generally last one year only but, in exceptional cases, longer projects may be considered.

### **Timescales for Application**

#### ***For any applicant intending to begin in the next 3 – 6 months:***

- The applicant should contact the IAB immediately to discuss their project.
- Stage 1 Applications can now be submitted at any time and should be submitted no later than 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
- The deadline for Stage 2 applications will be 23<sup>rd</sup> October – the intention is that these applications will be taken to a special Advisory Group in November and recommendations put to the PMC on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

#### ***For any applicant intending to begin after March next year:***

- Applications can be submitted in line with the deadlines outlined above
- Applicants should contact the IAB as soon as possible to discuss their project.
- The IAB will communicate deadlines & timescales over the coming months.