



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 2

4th September 2025

Report by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

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**GLASGOW'S AFFORDABLE WARMTH PROGRAMME: HEAT IN BUILDINGS  
– AREA BASED SCHEMES GRANT FUNDING AWARD 2025/26**

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Heat in Buildings: Area Based Schemes (HiBs:ABS) grant award to Glasgow City Council and to accept the award for 2025/26.

**Recommendations:**

Committee is requested to:

1. Formally accept the award of £6,845,492 Heat in Buildings: Area Based Schemes grant funding for 2025/26.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

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## **1 Heat in Buildings Area Based Schemes Programme**

- 1.1 Energy efficiency was designated as a national infrastructure priority by the Scottish Government in 2015. This is the thirteenth year of the Area Based Schemes programme (the 2025/26 programme is known as ABS 13). The programme aims to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency contributing to making Scotland's existing buildings near zero carbon by 2045 wherever feasible and reasonably practicable.
- 1.2 The overarching objective of the Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings: Area Based Schemes (HiBs:ABS) programme is to provide funding to assist owner occupiers and households living in private rented homes, who are in or at risk of fuel poverty, to install energy efficiency measures through implementing a 'fabric first' approach. This helps homeowners, who are eligible to receive funding from the HiBs:ABS programme, to improve the energy performance of their housing towards achieving an EPC rating of C or better and reduce their energy usage and fuel costs.
- 1.3 The HiBs:ABS programme supports the delivery of key objectives of [Glasgow's Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028](#), particularly in relation to priority No. 2 "Improving the energy efficiency of Glasgow's homes, reducing fuel poverty and supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy."

## **2 Heat in Buildings: Area Based Schemes – Funding Award and Proposed Programme for 2024/25**

- 2.1 The Scottish Government's offer of grant to Glasgow City Council is £6,845,492 from the Energy Efficient Scotland 2025/26 Programme.
- 2.2 In line with Scottish Government guidelines and to identify fuel poor households, the HiBs:ABS programme in Glasgow will be targeted in geographic areas that are:
  - Within the lowest 25% Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020).
  - In Council Tax Band A-C and Tax Band D in certain conditions.
  - In mixed tenure blocks in Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) areas of operation.
  - Where people are living in vulnerable conditions to the cold.
- 2.3 Following Scottish Government Guidance and the 'fabric first' approach, projects will consist, in the main, of external wall insulation in both traditional and non-traditional properties.
- 2.4 In addition, work is underway with RSLs to support owners in mixed tenure blocks, to benefit from external wall insulation. Where these works have previously been completed, the provision of HiBs:ABS grant funding can assist with additional fabric elements and the decarbonisation of heating and hot water systems. When feasible, HiBs:ABS supports the delivery of energy efficiency measures to pre-1919 tenemental properties.

- 2.5 The identification of projects that can be delivered through the HiBs:ABS programme is data driven with an analysis of house construction type, profiling by area, and review of previous measures undertaken. This enables viable projects, which meet the criteria of the scheme, to be developed at scale.
- 2.6 The Scottish Government's HiBs:ABS 2024/25 programme completed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (this is the deadline for final drawn down of grant and completion of works to properties included in the 2024/25 programme). A review of the city's HiBs:ABS 2024/25 programme and projects to be taken forward during 2025/26 will be reported to the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee in November 2025. NRS Housing has identified three project areas in Househillmuir (Pollok), Cleaves Road (Priesthill) and Penilee, which will start on site during 2025/26. Tender preparation work is also underway to progress new projects in Baillieston and North Pollok and to improve a number of British Iron and Steel Federation (BISF) properties that are located in the city.

### 3 Policy and Resource Implications

#### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	No direct costs. Part of HiBs:ABS funding can be used for Council administrative and enabling costs.
<i>Legal:</i>	No legal implications arising from the report.
<i>Personnel:</i>	No additional personnel implications arising from the report.
<i>Procurement:</i>	HiBs:ABS projects are procured through Scotland Excel Procurement Framework and require input from Glasgow City Council Procurement Services.

<b>Council Strategic Plan:</b>	<p>Grand Challenge 1:- Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities</p> <p>Mission 3:- Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities</p> <p>Grand Challenge 2:- Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens</p> <p>Mission 2:- Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy</p> <p>Grand Challenge 3:- Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow</p> <p>Mission 2:- Become a net zero carbon city by 2030</p>
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## **Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

The programme supports the reduction of fuel poverty and therefore contributes to multiple equality outcomes.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Delivering Glasgow's Area-Based Schemes and targeting investment towards hard-to-treat homes in fuel poor areas for external wall insulation and associated energy efficiency improvements is an action included in Glasgow's Local Housing Strategy 23-28. The Local Housing Strategy 23-28 was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Action to mitigate high fuel costs will generate positive equality impacts for groups with protected characteristics.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

The programme helps to mitigate against energy price increases and cost of living challenges for owners in poor and vulnerable households.

The Council's Corporate Procurement Unit utilises Scotland Excel's framework of contractors, which was re-tendered in 2021, to deliver the Council's Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes projects. There are 17 external wall insulation contractors on the framework, which makes provision for both community benefits and Fair Working Practice.

## **Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

Theme 3 Well Connected and Thriving City Action 8: Continue to work with Scottish Government to maximise grant funding for Area Based Schemes to invest in improving energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty in private sector housing.

Action 39: Encourage and enable retrofit of all existing owner-occupied housing to EPC level C or above, and to reduce flood risk (where appropriate).

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* The installation of energy efficiency measures will contribute to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* The delivery of the ABS programme can save carbon and reduce energy use to benefit the environment, contributing to the city's net zero carbon target.

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:** Measures are in place to ensure the use of personal data complies with the current Data Protection laws

#### 4 Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

1. Formally accept the award of £6,845,492 Heat in Buildings: Area Based Schemes grant funding for 2025/26.