



CABINET – 21ST JANUARY 2015

SUBJECT: CYD CYMRU COLLECTIVE ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet endorsement to sign up to the Cyd Cymru Charter “A collective energy scheme for domestic homes in Wales.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report outlines the Cyd Cymru scheme and the benefits of signing up to the Charter.
- 2.2 The potential benefits to households are reflected within the report and how the Cyd Cymru scheme can be communicated to residents within Caerphilly.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Signing up to the Cyd Cymru Charter would link to the following strategies:-

“Living better, using less” Sustainable Development Strategy

“Caerphilly Delivers” Single Integrated Plan 2013-17

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Fuel poverty is high on the council’s agenda. Domestic energy prices have been dramatically rising over recent years. The Energy Saving Trust informs that energy prices have risen by 28% between 2008 and 2013.
- 4.2 Cyd Cymru – is a collective energy switching scheme developed to offer people in Wales an opportunity to save money by coming together to buy fuel “in bulk”. However, there are other switching groups which can be accessed independently by residents.
- 4.3 The scheme has been developed by Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, with support from the Welsh Government’s “Regional Collaboration Fund”. Cyd Cymru was developed in the Autumn of 2013.
- 4.4 To date two switches have taken place between January and March 2014. 6,800 households across Wales registered. Over 1,500 households switched saving an average of £185 per household. It is noted that the bulk of residents resided within the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Council boundaries.

4.5 How is Cyd Cymru delivered?

Cyd Cymru collective energy switching scheme is being delivered in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust Wales. The Energy Saving Trust is a social enterprise with a charitable foundation. The Energy Saving Trust supports the delivery of Cyd Cymru with specialist knowledge and expertise. They have developed a detailed implementation plan which includes the procurement of the switching provider, delivery of a local engagement plan and project evaluation methodology. In September 2013, a tender for a switching agent was ran on Sell2Wales and the winning bidder was the 'energyhelpline'. This contract is currently in place until March 2015.

4.6 The Charter

The purpose of the Charter (see appendix 1) is to set out the simple steps required for making Cyd Cymru a successful collaboration across Wales, and how organisations can get involved in the scheme. By signing the Charter the council will receive support to promote collective energy switching in return for a few pledges:-

- Promote collective energy efficiency switching through Cyd Cymru.
- Take action to help alleviate fuel poverty which currently affects 30% of Welsh households
- Help households to improve their energy use and increase their knowledge of how to save energy in the home
- Promote the scheme via local press and media, partner networks and engagement events to local residents to encourage registration
- Share local marketing plans (or list of planned activity) with the Cyd Cymru project team
- Share the proposals of the community fund allocated to the council with locally agreed charities

4.7 In support to signing the Charter the council will receive:-

- Material and support to promote the scheme
- Access to a community fund

4.8 Community fund

Currently for each household that switches supplier a fee is paid by the energy provider into a community fund. This fund is redistributed to local authorities across Wales based on the number of fuel switches in each area; this fund should be donated to local charities. A further report will be presented to Cabinet following the end of the financial year to determine how and which local charities these funds are to be donated to.

4.9 The next collective switch by Cyd Cymru is planned for January 2015. Registration will open on 2nd January 2015 with offers and switching planned between 2nd - 16th March 2015. If the contract is extended, this will allow further opportunities in the future to register for switching.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Cabinet endorse this report and agree to sign up to the Cyd Cymru Charter.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To reduce energy bills for residents within Caerphilly County Borough and help take households out of fuel poverty.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 There are no Statutory Powers associated with this report.

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Consultees: Cllr Keith Reynolds Leader of Council
Cllr Gerald Jones Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Chris Burns Interim Chief Executive
Nicole Scammell Acting Director of Corporate Services & Section 151
Officer
Shaun Couzens Chief Housing Officer
Phil Davy Head of Programmes (WHQS)
Kenyon Williams Private Sector Housing Manager
Liz Lucas Head of Procurement
Steve Pugh Corporate Communications Manager
Paul Cooke Team Leader, Sustainable Development.
Paul Rossiter Energy & Water Leader
Gail Williams Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
John Rogers Principal Solicitor

Appendices:

Appendix I Cyd Cymru Charter