

Open Report on behalf of Sean Kent, Group Manager Environmental Services

Report to:	Schools Forum
Date:	14 January 2015
Subject:	SCoRE Funding and Progress Update

Summary:

This report to Schools Forum outlines the spend profile to date, and the projected profile of the SCoRE programme; including resourcing spends within the operational budget, and spend on boiler room improvements in Lincolnshire schools. The total spend over the programme's lifetime is in line with the original proposal; there have been more boilers than expected and therefore funds from the revolving fund have been re-allocated accordingly.

Day + 1 half-hourly electricity and gas consumption data is available where meters have been enabled. This provides enough data to monitor and manage energy consumption effectively, and to evaluate the benefits of technology investment.

To ensure schools continue to engage with the SCoRE programme, a new format is being implemented, whereby the SCoRE team will work with each school on an individual basis, instead of in clusters. This increases flexibility, and means the needs of each school are met.

Boiler room improvements will now be installed in every school before the end of July 2015. This will ensure that gas consumption savings will be realised as quickly as possible.

Recommendation(s):

This paper is for information only; no decision is required.

Background

SCoRE is a programme of work in Lincolnshire's schools, with the aims of improving energy efficiency and reducing demand for energy. The programme is available to all schools in Lincolnshire, including academies. There are three strands to the work programme:

1. Behavioural change: SCoRE officers train students from each school to become Lincolnshire Carbon Ambassadors, who are able to identify low and no cost energy saving opportunities in their school buildings;
2. Investment in boiler room improvements, to reduce gas consumption;
3. Support in putting together Action Plans which identify opportunities and support schools to access funding to implement identified long term energy efficiency actions

Following a successful pilot a business case put to Children's Services and Lincolnshire Schools Forum. The programme was rolled out in 2013, with the first schools completing the three-term programme in Summer 2013. To date, 159 schools have taken part in the programme, and almost 500 Carbon Ambassadors have been trained. Schools have shown an average 8% reduction in their electricity consumption in the few weeks of the active phase of work, with some schools reducing their consumption by over 50%.

The successes of the SCoRE programme were recently acknowledged when the team received a Green Apple Award, with a Gold award in the category of energy reduction in local authorities.

1.2 Spend profile

The original proposal agreed £3.6million (£400,000 Operational; £2,000,000 Boiler Room investment; £1,200,000 revolving fund).

Spending to date has been allocated to two key areas of activity. The operational budget is spent in the employment of two graduate SCoRE officers to deliver the programme, one modern apprentice to support the programme, and the delivery of events for schools taking part in the programme. Spend on this area will be as originally profiled.

The Investment in Technology budget is spent on insulation for the valves and flanges of boilers in each school, and the installation of boiler optimisation units in each school. These units ensure that the boiler only fires when necessary. Both technologies are proven to reduce gas consumption in schools; insulation by 3%, and boiler optimisation by 10%. A conservative estimate of 10% reduction in gas consumption is given to schools.

These technologies also offer value for money; with the boiler optimisation units offering a payback of 3.9 years, and insulation having a payback of 2.5 years. Revised estimates (based on actual installations) indicate that there are more boilers and consequently this area of spend has been reprofiled and funds from revolving fund re-allocated.

£1.2 million was also originally allocated for a revolving fund, to enable investment in identified actions. Various models have been explored but, between us, we have been unable to come up with a solution that would fairly benefit both Academies and Maintained schools.

LCC is contractually committed to deliver boiler room improvements to Lincolnshire Schools under two Framework Orders: boiler optimisation and boiler room insulation; and to Keep Britain Tidy for the SCoRE officers over the life of the project.

	Spend to date	Projected future spend	Predicted total spend
Operational	£195,000	£205,000	£400,000
Investment in Technology	£1,196,000	£1,435,000	£2,631,000
Revolving Fund	£0	£569,000*	£569,000
Grand total	£1,391,000	£2,209,000	£3,600,000

* dependant on finding workable solution

1.3 Value for money

The best returns on investment are those schools that adopt the SCoRE philosophy, and show commitment to all elements of the programme. Successful schools encourage a whole-school approach to reducing energy consumption, with commitment from senior management to investing in appropriate energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies identified in Action Plans.

1.4 AMR Data and use by schools

Day + 1 half-hourly electricity and gas consumption data is available where meters have been enabled. Day + 1 data provides enough data to monitor and manage energy consumption effectively and to evaluate the benefits of technology investment.

Participating schools receive half-hourly data reports every month, and can request access to any other data. For example, schools have requested access to detailed data over a 24-hour period, to monitor the success of Eco-days in school.

Recently, this data was used to verify the results of the Lincolnshire Schools Switch Off Challenge. Support is also available to help schools interpret this data, to identify further opportunities for reducing energy consumption. Options for giving schools better access to the data in the future are contingent upon some Strategic Property decisions. The system also has the ability to activate an email alert where normal profiles are exceeded.

1.6 Current issues

Engaging remaining schools

It has become increasingly challenging to get schools to sign up to the SCoRE programme. As a result, the SCoRE team are implementing a new format of the programme, whereby they will work with each school individually, creating a bespoke programme to suit the needs of the school (see Appendix A for details). This will solve logistical problems of arranging training days for clusters of schools. Schools that have completed the programme will still come together at celebration events, which the team will deliver every term. This will be an opportunity to share best practice between schools. It is expected that this new flexibility to work with the schools on an individual basis will result in increased take-up of the SCoRE programme.

In parallel with this new approach a library of case studies has been put together. This will enable the Team to demonstrate appropriate examples of actions and savings.

Boiler Room Improvement Rollout

To date, boiler room improvements have been implemented as each school takes part in the SCoRE programme. Concerns have been expressed as to how this is ensuring value for money in terms of the speed of the rollout of this technology. Going forward, a new format for engaging with schools in the programme means that the boiler room improvements will be installed in every school before the end of July 2015. This will ensure that savings on the gas consumption of schools will be realised as quickly as possible. Once installed, returns on boiler room improvements are proven independently. Analysis will be undertaken in Spring 2015 to examine the savings, using data for the first full winter since installation began.

Energy Consumption Trends

In recent years, there has been a significant upward trend in energy use, particularly electricity. When SCoRE schools are measured against this trend, there are significant savings. SCoRE is therefore helping schools to minimise the increases in their consumption and bills.

Conclusion

SCoRE offers value for money and encourages long term sustainable behaviour. It improves the skills and knowledge of students, and the ripple effect can be seen throughout the whole school where schools integrate sustainability into school life.

Challenges have been met with solutions; amendments to the original format of the SCoRE offer should result in both improved take-up of the programme, and increased value for money with regards investment in technology.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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