Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2018 seeking details of energy efficiency discount schemes introduced by the Council under section 65 of the Climate Change Act 2009.

Our records indicate that in 2010 the Council entered into an agreement with Scottish Gas to deliver a pilot Energy Efficiency Scheme that met the requirements of section 65 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 which would provide for a one-off Council Tax discount of £60 to householders undertaking cavity wall or loft insulation installation through an accredited installer.

At the time that the Council considered the establishment of a scheme it was reported that the Scottish Gas scheme was the only one operating in Scotland that met the requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

We launched a scheme but are not aware of any individual successfully participating in the scheme and receiving a Council Tax discount. We did have a small number of enquiries but there was a lack of accredited installers in Orkney at the time and a number of other schemes for the installation of energy efficiency measures that were probably much easier to access.

In relation to Non-Domestic Rates and an obligation on the Council to offer a discount scheme under section 67 of the 2009 Act this is not something that the Council was aware of as an obligation and from a review of the legislation for this reply to your letter it is not very clear what the obligation would be. Section 67 of the 2009 Act refers to section 153 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 which appears to be principally about the powers of the Secretary of State to prescribe the amount of non-domestic rates and it is not clear what discounts should be offered by the Council.

We are not aware of any other Council offering any discount schemes for non-domestic rates and the emphasis in 2010 seemed to be very much on Council Tax, however If you are able to provide any guidance on what we should be doing in this regard that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive