

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

24 JUNE 2021

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject: Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (LAD2)

Appropriate Committee:

Homes & Communities Committee
Policy & Finance Committee

Details of Item (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

Due to the tight timescales involved and the need to consider if it the project was feasible and the Council could participate and accept the grant funding there has not been time to report to the relevant committees. To receive funding the Council must sign & return award letter/grant form by 15th April 2021.

Background Information

On 5th March 2021, the Council received an email from the Midlands Energy Hub regarding the government allocation of grant to the Council under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2. Initially it was felt that the timescales were too difficult to achieve and the Council did not have the resources to deliver the programme. However, discussions with our neighbour authority Gedling, raised the prospect of working in partnership with EON to deliver our programmes.

In initial discussions with EON, a draft proposal was put together which meant the Council would now be able to deliver the programme and spend the grant allocation.

EON are consider our preferred partner due to their previous experience in this field; the fact that they are working with at least 2 other local authorities (Gedling & Rushmore) in the region to deliver this programme and the Council has successful worked with them on our Warmer Homes Initiative in 2020/21.

Four key members (listed at the end of the report) were contacted by telephone on 14th April 2021 by Caroline Wagstaff (Business Manager Housing Maintenance & Asset Management) and were happy to proceed with the proposal.

Bid Summary and Proposal

The draft proposal is to work in partnership with EON bring 73 properties up to a C rating EPC as listed below:

- 53 owner occupied properties (with E or D rated EPC's) benefit from a mix of either cladding installation or the installation of solar PVs of which a 100% grant is receivable at a cost of £567,853 and;
- 20 of the councils own stock at D EPC rating have solar PV's installed with 66.66% grant at £91,765 funding and 33.33% (approx. £40,000) from the HRA Energy Efficient budget.

All households will be assessed to ensure they meet the grant's household financial eligibility criteria of earning not more than £30,000 per annum.

Financial Implications (FIN21-22/2872)

The grant awarded of £724,850 will need to be split as follows:

Fund	Value £	Detail
General Fund	65,236.50	9% allowed for managing the project
General Fund	567,853.50	Grant for the works carried out at privately owned properties
Housing Revenue Account	91,760	In order to increase the energy efficiency budget within the Capital Investment Programme
Total	724,850.00	

The £65,236.50 for managing the scheme will require an associated revenue budget within the general fund.

The £567,853.50 will need a corresponding General Fund Capital budget to be added to 2021/22 to pay for the works carried out on the privately owned properties.

The HRA Capital Investment Programme currently has an existing budget of £150,000 for works required in 2021/22. The £91,760 grant will be added to this budget, allowing more properties to be upgraded from an energy rating of EPC D to EPC C. £10,687.50 will be separately identified for survey work and is 100% funded, leaving £81,078 to contribute 66.66% to the cost of the PV's being installed, and the remaining 33.33% coming from the existing £150,000 budget.

There is some flexibility within the conditions of the grant in terms of the above allocation if required, but this grant covers all additional costs to be incurred by the Council.

Risks

1. A reputational risk if the grant is not fully spent and needs to be returned. This will be monitored closely by the Council's Home Energy Officer.

2. That the works are not carried out to satisfactory standard and residents complain. Only eligible contractors will be utilised and it is intended these will come from the Dynamic Purchasing Systems through the Midland Hub run by Nottingham City Council.

Deadlines

- To receive funding the Council must sign & return award letter by 15 April 2021
- Proposals finalised and submitted by no later than 12 noon on the 24 of May 2021
- Majority works completed by end September 2021 and fully completed by 31 December 2021.

Decision

- a) **that the Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing be given delegated authority to accept the Grant offer from the Midlands Energy Hub;**
- b) **£91,760 of the Grant awarded be initially allocated to the HRA Capital Investment Programme to support the current Energy Efficiency budget and the current budget of £150,000 be increased by the same value to £214,760;**
- c) **a general fund Capital budget be set up for £567,853.50 for the works estimated to be carried out to the Privately owned;**
- d) **to set up a revenue budget of £65,236.50 (9% of £724,850 total costs), of which £2,750 will be an upfront payment for managing and administering the programme; and**
- e) **enter contract procedure rules exemption to enter into a contract with EON for the reasons listed in the report.**

Members Consulted:

Councillor D Lloyd - Leader of the Council

Councillor P Peacock - Opposition Spokesperson of Policy & Finance Committee

Councillor T Wendels - Chairman of Homes & Communities Committee

Councillor Mrs K Arnold - Opposition Spokesperson of Homes & Communities Committee

Signed:



Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Date: 8 June 2021