

Decision Record – Bid to the Department for the Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to secure Funding to reduce fuel poverty in Warwickshire (request to add to the Capital Programme)

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision

Councillor David Wright, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT

**Date of Decision:
(NOT BEFORE – 21st December 2012)**

2 JANUARY 2013

Decision taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT, approves that if the bid for Fuel Poverty & Green Deal funding to DECC is successful then the value received is added to the capital programme for Sustainable Communities.

Reasons for Decisions

WCC is applying for up to £400k of capital funding from the Fuel Poverty Fund, and a further £20k of revenue from the Green Deal Pioneer Places Fund. The £400k is to target up to 50 rural households within the County with some of the highest levels of fuel poverty and to install energy saving measures that will decrease house holders fuel bills and ultimately contribute to improving quality of life. This target will be subject to agreement from individual homeowners and depend on the types of measures that are required. The £20k revenue will contribute towards the development of a web portal to enable information and learning to be shared about the process and payback of the measures.

WCC will not receive any of the funding as a lump sum but DECC will pay the grant in stages on receipt of monthly invoices from WCC.

If our bid is successful then we will not receive a lump sum but we are expected to invoice DECC monthly from Jan-March 2013 to receive payment for the installation works completed. As this transaction will be passing through the WCC financial system we need to have the maximum value of the transactions (£400k) added to the capital programme.

The intention is for the £400,000 to be used for capital expenditure towards the cost of energy efficiency measures such as insulation, heating systems and improved control systems as well as a contribution towards the delivery costs of the project. The assets improved or purchased with the grant will not belong to Warwickshire County Council

and the future maintenance liabilities will sit with the household where the measures have been installed.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below and in the officer report):

Background:

Warwickshire County Council (WCC), with the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), has formed a partnership with Rugby Borough Council (RBC), Renewable Energy Technology Alliance (RETA), a local consortium of SMEs supported by WCC and Coventry City Council (CCC) and Sustainable Action Partnership – West Midlands (SHAP) with links to Public Health and Affordable Warmth.

This partnership has been working towards a coordinated approach to addressing fuel poverty in Warwickshire, including putting a submission to DECC for funding to kick start the initiative.

DECC launched a formal competition for local authorities to bid for part of a £25m pot to trial Fuel Poverty initiatives and an additional £10m for Green Deal in October 2012 and has stipulated that local authorities are required to be the accountable body, drawing down monies from DECC upon receipt of invoices once work has been completed.

Approval for WCC to become the accountable body for this potential work and to submit the bid for the funding was approved by the PH for Sustainable Communities on 26th November 2012.

Financial Implications:

None listed.

Report Author: Andy McDarmaid / Rachel Baconnet

Head of Service: Louise Wall

Strategic Director: Monica Fogarty

Portfolio Holder Councillor David Wright

Councillor Alan Cockburn

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Report from author.

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

DECC Local Authority Funds Guidance Notes -
<http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/funding-support/fundopportunities/6712-local-authority-competition-fund-application-pack.pdf>

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

Cllr David Wright (Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Izzi Seccombe (portfolio Holder)
CORPORATE BOARD
Legal – Jane Pollard, Sarah Duxbury
Finance – John Betts, Simon Smith
Equality – Tejay De Kretser

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