

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**GREEN HOMES GRANT LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY PHASE 1B****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee support for a submission to be made to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 1b and to approve an amendment to the Capital Programme as appropriate should the bid be successful.

Information

2. As outlined in the Council Plan 'Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future' (2017 to 2021), we are committed to ensuring people live independently for as long as possible. Many people want to stay in their own home and Nottinghamshire County Council will help them to achieve this by adjusting their homes and introducing new technology.
3. In September 2020, Policy Committee gave agreement to the submission of a bid in partnership with E.ON for funding through Phase 1a of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme. Later that same month, BEIS approved £1,052,526 of support towards measures allowing for the delivery of a range of improvements, including solid wall insulation, air heat pumps, solar thermal heating, windows and doors, loft and cavity wall insulation to homes across the county. These measures broaden the existing offer currently delivered through the Warm Homes Hub established to deliver the Warm Homes Fund secured by the authority, in partnership with E.ON in 2019.
4. BEIS allocated £76 million nationally from that round out of an anticipated £200 million and Phase 1b of the fund has now been launched, with a closing date of Friday 4th December. This additional funding round offers the opportunity to apply for yet further measures across the county.
5. Due to the short deadline falling outside this Committee meeting, an initial application will have already been submitted. As approved at the earlier Committee meeting, given the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme can be delivered through existing structures, it was considered appropriate to submit the application in advance of both seeking Committee support and approval for consequent amendments to the Capital Programme, should the bid be successful.
6. The bid is for up to £3,600,000 for supporting an additional 500 homes, extending the offer to include solar power installations. If approved, it will again will be delivered in partnership with E.ON and will extend the project already agreed, approved and contracted. A decision is anticipated sometime in January 2021.
7. The scheme will be delivered through the Warm Homes Hub and targeted at residents in fuel poverty. Some of the County's most vulnerable residents will be supported (such as the

elderly, disabled and rurally located) who live in properties which are harder and more expensive to heat.

8. An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is a simple way to understand the energy efficiency and carbon emissions of homes. It is also a legal requirement when building, selling, or renting a commercial or residential property. The certificate demonstrates the performance of a building by using bands which range from 'A' to 'G', providing a useful summary of the property and offers suggestions regarding the improvements which could be made to improve the EPC rating. There are seven of these bands on an EPC which are run on a sliding scale from 'A' (the most energy efficient) to 'G' (the least efficient). They are colour coded for ease of reference from dark green (an 'A' rating) through to red (a 'G' rating). Most homes in the UK fall into a 'D' band.
9. Under this new phase, properties falling under the EPC Band D may be included as well as those under Band E, F and G rated homes.
10. State aid considerations were detailed in the report to Policy Committee in September and remain the same for Phase 1b. The overall amount of Green Homes Grant remains below the £4.73m threshold requirement to carry out an "OJEU" compliant process under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for works contracts. Provisions will be included in the contract with E.ON in respect of State Aid requirements and that the works undertaken are "on market" to ensure value for the grant funding.

Other Options Considered

11. Given the short timescale and the process for bidding, an alternative option would have been to deal with this matter through the Council's Urgency Procedures. However, as the initial bid did not commit the Council to expenditure it was felt more appropriate for this matter to be dealt with by Policy Committee. This approach enables Members to decide whether the bid be pursued further.

Reason for Recommendations

12. This submission supports the delivery of the Council Plan, offering creative improvements to the housing stock, reinforcing Nottinghamshire as a great place to live, work, visit and relax. The County Council was well placed to bid at short notice and can use existing partnership structures to deliver the programmes and aligning this work with other successful and planned interventions in green retrofit housing as referenced in another report to this Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

14. This project will support a green recovery in response to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and help some of Nottinghamshire's more vulnerable fuel-poor households living in poorly insulated homes.

Financial Implications

15. No funding from Nottinghamshire County Council is sought or required. However, the receipt of any funding will require a change to the Council's Capital Programme.
16. Funding will be claimed by the Council and passported across, in arrears, to E.ON. The systems are already in place to allow this to happen.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Support the recent submission of a bid to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 1b in partnership with E.ON.
- 2) Subject to the bid being successful, approve the appropriate amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the amount of funding awarded.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE Leader of the County Council

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 16/11/2020)

17. The recommendations fall within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (KRP 13/11/2020)

18. As with the previous bid, whilst the County Council will be submitting the bid to BEIS for Green Homes grant funding, any funding received will be passed on to E.ON who will be undertaking all works. There is no requirement for County Council funding should the bid be successful. Therefore, there are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- *Green Homes Grant: Local Authority delivery scheme, Phase 1b. Guidance for Local Authorities*, published October 2020 and available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928816/ghg-lad-phase-1b-guidance.pdf
- *Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme*, report to Policy Committee published 30 September 2020

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All