

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Warm Homes Funding – Category 2 (rural) project Recipient agreement variation
<b>Date of decision:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Phil Crossland, Interim Service Director Highways Environment & Waste
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision as established under the following:  <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50028435">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50028435</a>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	The original decision was consulted on in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regulatory Services and Community Safety as well as affordable warmth project partners, namely Shropshire Council, Severn Wye and Marches Energy agencies.
<b>Decision made:</b>	- Herefordshire Council agrees to vary its current Category 2 (Rural) recipient agreement with Warm Homes Fund provider, Affordable Warmth Solutions in order to extend the funding agreement until May 2022 (originally August 2021).
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fuel Poverty affects an estimated 13,902 out of 84,028 households (16.5%). This figure is higher than the national level of 13.4% and reflects the challenges that the county faces in relation to the energy efficiency of properties including a large proportion of older, hard to treat ‘solid wall’ properties, restricted access to mains gas and the resulting prevalence of expensive heating fuel systems.</li> <li>- The Warm Homes Fund is designed to support councils, registered social landlords and relevant partner organisations to address some of the issues affecting fuel poor households. This fund is administered by National Grid and the Community Interest Company, Affordable Warmth Solutions.</li> <li>- The project, focused on off-gas, rural areas across Herefordshire and Shropshire will allow up to 50 fuel poor households to benefit from first time central heating systems (LPG and Air Source Heat Pumps) in order to alleviate fuel poverty and improve healthy home levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	- The Cabinet member for housing, regulatory services and community safety has been given delegated authority from Cabinet in exercise of its functions under Part 3 Section 3 of the constitution to approve the council’s participation in the project and authorises the Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment and Waste services to approve operational decisions necessary in enabling the project.

	<p>The latter post has now been superseded by the Interim Service Director Environment, Highways and Waste and delegated power now defers to the relevant post-holder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The decision to bid for these grants was taken before the changes to the council's finance procedure rules.</li> <li>- Monitoring and reporting of the project pipeline and installs takes place on a quarterly basis and the delivery profile has been adjusted to reflect this.</li> <li>- Council and partners identifying additional funding to supplement price rises as a result of supply chain pressures and ensure pipeline installs can be completed as planned.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Herefordshire Council choose not to accept (sign) the recipient agreement variation;</li> <li>- This would leave a number of fuel poor residents without first time central heating systems and is therefore not in the interests of alleviating fuel poverty and equality. It would also be a reputational risk to the authority.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

Signed..... Date: