

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Officer approval to award Keep Herefordshire Warm contract to Severn Wye Energy Agency.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	20 May 2019
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Marc Willimont, Acting Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste Services
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision as established under the chief executive's scheme of delegation.
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	The procurement specification was consulted on in conjunction with the Affordable Warmth Steering Group members and the subsequent procurement exercise was undertaken by members of the Energy and Active Travel team in conjunction with Procurement.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Approve award of Keep Herefordshire Warm contract to Severn Wye Energy Agency for signing by Acting Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste Services.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A fully compliant procurement exercise has taken place recommending the appointment of Severn Wye Energy Agency as the new Keep Herefordshire Warm provider on a cost and quality (35%/65%) scored basis (please see attached procurement report for further information);</li> <li>- Keep Herefordshire Warm works with residents and stakeholders to alleviate fuel poverty in the county;</li> <li>- Fuel Poverty affects around 11,000 households in the county (13.5%). This figure is higher than the national level of 11.1% 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 properties and restricted access to mains gas due to the rural nature of the county</li> <li>- Decreasing fuel poverty can be linked to increasing housing standards as well as health and wellbeing. Inequalities in a range of health issues can be tracked to the quality of housing; examples include the link between respiratory disease and dampness and mould, and excess winter deaths and poor insulation and space heating. In relation to illness due to cold housing for example, BRE estimate an annual cost of at least £145 million to the NHS (The Health Costs of Cold Dwellings, BRE, 2001).</li> <li>- Housing also accounts for around a quarter of the County's carbon dioxide emissions and therefore by helping to improve the energy efficiency of properties, the Keep Herefordshire Warm service will contribute to climate change reduction targets.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep Herefordshire Warm seeks to mitigate the continued rise of energy prices by improving household energy efficiency, maximizing household income and reducing</li> </ul>

	<p>energy bill spend;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep Herefordshire Warm seeks to support the public sector equality duty by treating all prospective households equally. The scheme seeks to improve energy security and affordability and to help tackle fuel poverty.</li> <li>- The tendered cost for the service is £99,214 over 3 years, with a proposed option to extend the contract for 1 year providing that performance over the period is deemed satisfactory and value for money is maintained;</li> <li>- £27.5k of the cost is proposed to be met through the Warm Homes fund grant, which will be required to be paid in advance of monies claimed back from the funder. This budget is also subject to change as a result of the project responsibility potentially being transferred over to Shropshire Council and could therefore leave a corresponding shortfall in contract commitment unless this can be recovered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not re-commissioning the service would leave Herefordshire residents without a local source of home energy efficiency and fuel poverty advice and support. Residents would therefore need to be signposted to national agencies and their own energy suppliers, which experience has shown does not always lead to a satisfactory resolution. This could leave residents in fuel poverty and the associated implications that this has.</li> <li>- Responsibility for the service could be delivered 'in-house', which would involve further resource to be identified without potentially the added value that an established, fit for purpose organisation can provide.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

**Acting Assistant Director for Regulatory Environment and Waste**