

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Further Warm Homes Funding - Shropshire Council led project
Date of decision:	12 June 2020
Decision maker:	Marc Willimont, Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste Services
Authority for delegated decision:	The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision as per the decision notice dated 12 May 2020. http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6823
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regulatory services and Community Safety as well as the Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy & Skills have been consulted and are supportive of the proposed recommendations. Political groups were consulted on this proposal and no further comments were received.
Decision made:	<p>Herefordshire Council participates in the Shropshire Council led category 1 (Urban) and category 3 (Energy efficiency and Health related solutions) Warm Homes Fund projects and accepts the grants via the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding;</p> <p>The Acting Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste Services be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to enable the project; , such as signing off the project Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and any relevant targeting activity;</p> <p>Herefordshire Council agrees to end its current, direct Category 1 agreement with Warm Homes Fund provider, Affordable Warmth Solutions, by means of a variation in the agreement, in order to access the further and higher level of funding provision.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fuel Poverty affects an estimated 10,682 households in the county (12.9%). This figure is higher than the national level of 10.3% 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 - 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. - The project will allow around 200+ Herefordshire homes to benefit from first time central heating in order to alleviate fuel poverty and improve healthy home levels. - The associated Category 2 (rural) and Category 3 (Health

	and energy advice) projects will provide further funding in Herefordshire to improve affordable warmth and healthy housing outcomes.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Cabinet member 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. - The decision to bid for these grants was taken before the changes to the council's finance procedure rules. - Shropshire Council will be responsible for administering the funding and has entered into the Affordable Warmth Solutions Recipient Agreement and the E.ON Grant Funding Agreement for this purpose. The council will be working with Shropshire Council to deliver the outcomes of the funding under the terms of a memorandum of understanding. - Up to £118,970 in additional revenue funding will be leveraged by the Council, which will be paid to public sector partners to deliver household support relating to this project.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Herefordshire Council choose not to take part in the Shropshire Council led projects, - This would have led to us being required to continue delivering under our current agreement and is not recommended as the funding is at a lower level, i.e. less households are set to benefit and would also require some re-negotiation with the funder for the Shropshire element of the project for which we are currently responsible.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed Date: 12 June 2020