

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Officer approval to sign the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery phase 2 (GHG LAD 2) grant acceptance letter and implement the project as outlined in the decision taken on 16/06/21.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	23 June 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Marc Willimont, Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment & Waste Services
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision as per the following decision notice: <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=7971">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=7971</a>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>The Cabinet Members for Housing and Regulatory services, Environment and Economy have been briefed and are supportive of the proposal. As a result of this additional consideration has been given to ensuring social value and evaluation of the scheme.</p> <p>Political group consultation has taken place and those that responded were supportive of the proposals.</p> <p>The project proposal was also developed in conjunction with project partners, Severn Wye Energy Agency as well as local social housing providers.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	The Council signs the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery phase 2 (GHG LAD 2) grant acceptance letter from the Midlands Energy Hub (MEH) for the £1,460,600 GHG LAD 2 grant funding and implements the project across Herefordshire as stated in the proposal and associated proposal to MEH.
<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 GHG LAD 2 scheme aims to raise the energy efficiency of low-income and low EPC rated homes including those living in the worst quality off-gas grid homes, delivering progress towards: reducing fuel poverty, the phasing out of high carbon fossil fuel heating and the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050. The fund also aims to support the green recovery in response to the economic impacts of Covid-19 and to help take low-income families out of fuel poverty.</li> <li>- The project will allow an estimated 155 Herefordshire homes to benefit from energy efficiency and low carbon heating</li> </ul>

	<p>measures in order to alleviate fuel poverty and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By adopting the proposal the council is being proactive in discharging its equality duty as the scheme will target fuel poor households, many of which will share a protected characteristic for example elderly and/or disabled residents. The proposal will also ensure that householders are treated equally when seeking to access the scheme.</li> <li>- The funding offer is £1.34m for capital energy efficiency measures as well as £120.6k for associated revenue and enabling costs, some of which would be capitalised, for example preparatory building works.</li> <li>- It is requested that £1.34m capital grant funding is added to the capital programme for works in Herefordshire.</li> <li>- The council is not required to supply any match funding to the scheme.</li> <li>- As with all grant funding accepted particular care should be taken to ensure that all grant conditions are understood (including those relating to clawback) and met during the project. The use of the DPS to commission the works is permissible under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</li> <li>- Customer journey support will be provided by Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA), due to them already providing a similar service, which is commissioned by the council directly called Keep Herefordshire Warm. This support is funded directly by MEH and is therefore at no extra cost to the council.</li> <li>- The council will put in place appropriate delivery mechanisms to mitigate the risk of under-delivery against proposed targets. This will include putting appropriate project management and governance arrangements in place as well as varying existing contracts and utilising procurement mechanisms such as MEH's Dynamic Purchasing System, (DPS).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not to accept or part accept the grant funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is not recommended as this would make it difficult for fuel poor households to receive support at the levels stated within the bid, as other funding streams alone are likely to result in significant funding shortfalls for fuel poor households.</li> <li>- This will also result in a risk of not achieving the council's strategic objectives within the County Plan 2020 – 2024 and Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy and reduce progress towards the Council's 2030 carbon neutral aspiration for the county.</li> </ul>

<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	N/A
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**Mr Marc Willimont**  
**Assistant Director Regulatory, Environment and Waste**