

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Officer approval to extend Warm Homes Fund project installer contracts with GSR Heating Ltd and Communitas Energy CIC via signing of Seal Authority form.
Date of decision:	13 May 2022
Decision maker:	Ross Cook, Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision as established under the following:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50028435</p> <p>The relevant Seal authority form is provided in conjunction with this form.</p> <p>Note: the original decision report delegated authority to Assistant Director for Regulatory Environment and Waste, this post has been superseded by the Service Director role, however with no active post-holder this decision has been escalated to the Corporate Director, Economy and Environment.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	The original decision was consulted on in conjunction with relevant Ward and Cabinet Members, affordable warmth project partners, namely Shropshire Council, Severn Wye and Marches Energy agencies and internal colleagues from relevant departments.
Decision made:	Approve Warm Homes Fund project installer contracts with GSR Heating Ltd. and Communitas Energy CIC via signing of Seal Authority form by the Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSR Ltd. were awarded the contract for first time LPG central heating systems via a compliant ITQ process. - No bids were received for provision and install of first time Air Source Heat Pump central heating systems and Communitas were awarded the contract via a procurement waiver after recommendation by a partner authority and the funder. - The warm homes funding recipient agreement has been extended at short notice on two occasions- contracts are being extended to support this and on the advice of Legal Services up to 31 May 2022. - Warm Homes Fund projects seek to alleviate fuel

	<p>poverty for eligible residents in the county via the installation of more efficient and economic heating systems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Decreasing fuel poverty can be linked to increasing housing standards as well as health and wellbeing. - Housing also accounts for around a quarter of the County's carbon dioxide emissions and therefore by helping to improve the energy efficiency of heating systems in properties, the Warm Homes Fund projects will contribute to climate change reduction targets.
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 originally authorised the Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment and Waste services to approve operational decisions necessary in enabling the project. This post has been superseded by the Service Director role, however with no active post-holder this decision has been escalated to the Corporate Director, Economy and Environment. - The decision to bid for these grants was taken before the changes to the council's finance procedure rules. - The council is responsible for administering the funding and has entered into Recipient Agreements for the project. The council is working with Shropshire Council to deliver the outcomes of the Category 2 (rural) funding as well as associated energy agency partners.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A- the Council has agreed to deliver the projects in line with the funding recipient agreements from Affordable Warmth Solutions, who administer the Warm Homes Fund and therefore requires installation partners to help deliver first time and replacement heating systems to households across Herefordshire and Shropshire.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Ross Cook

Job Title: Corporate Director Economy and Environment