

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To approve and launch the Able to Pay Retrofit - Home Energy Audits Programme for Herefordshire.
Date of decision:	17.01.24
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, subject to consultation with relevant Cabinet Members and the s151 officer.
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The cabinet took a decision on the 15th December 2022 to accept and spend the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) allocated to Herefordshire (£7.54m) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (£1.7m) in accordance with the Investment Plan approved by government. The decision delegates all operational decisions to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with S151 Officer.</p> <p>Decision - To Accept and Spend Any Approved UK Shared Prosperity Plan and Rural Prosperity Funds Approved by Government - Herefordshire Council https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9216</p>
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	The UKSPF Able to Pay Retrofit project follows on from a pilot project that included extensive engagement with a wide range of homeowners across Herefordshire. The 'Able to Pay Retrofit project' followed a pilot project that the UKSPF funding supported. Trust in installers was one of the issues raised from the pilot not knowing who to turn to.
Decision made:	To approve the £216,582 budget for the delivery of the Able to Pay retrofit project that utilizes the PAS2035 retrofit standards and the procurement, and award, of a service contract for the provision of home Energy audits support for UKSPF Intervention E13: Community measures to reduce cost of living.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Background</p> <p>The council has been allocated £7,545,330 to be spent between 2022 and 2025, of which £275,000 (£50,000 for 2022/23, £100,000 for 2023/24 and £150,000 for 2024/25) has been allocated to support community measures to reduce the cost of living.</p> <p>The 'Able to Pay Retrofit project' intends to target those homeowners who intend to carry out some form of retrofit and those who just miss out on government grant schemes such as HUG2. By having a project that utilises the mechanisms of PAS2035 this will allow homeowners to pursue measures that have to be appropriately lodged with Trustmark.</p> <p>Where a householder engages with the Herefordshire Council procured Trustmark Registered Business via a retrofit co-ordinator for the installation of energy efficiency measures, they can have confidence the work is delivered to recognised</p>

specifications and is underpinned by a compliance regime.

The model for the delivery of the E13 intervention is focused on:

- Herefordshire Council will procure a whole house retrofit installer.
- An assessment will detail what measures could be done on the property, followed by a technical survey and an Improvement Options Evaluation and proforma invoice for the measures that the homeowners want to pursue.
- The householder will then have two months to decide to pursue retrofit and in doing so can access seed funding (for fabric measures only) if they follow the PAS2035 route.

The project enables homeowners across Herefordshire to understand the optimal energy efficiency solutions for their homes whilst also helping to meet the County’s net zero carbon by 2030 ambition. For those that go on and decide to pursue measures, seed funding for capital measures via the non UKSPF funding is available to fund fabric first measures.

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:

Finance

The total budget for E13 is £255,500 with an indicative split as contained in the table subject to procurement. All budget lines need to net of 4% to support the M&A as agreed in the Investment Plan.

	2022/23 2023/24	2024/25
Total allocation	£125,000	£150,000
less 4% M&A net off	£5,000	£6,000
Overall Total (less residual spend)	£72,582	£144,000
Combined Budget	£216, 582	

Legal

UKSPF grant terms (including output/outcome definitions) will be written into the successful applicants’ contracts, and collection of the outputs will form part of these.

Legal have been consulted about subsidy control and the determination is that this does not apply.

Procurement

Herefordshire Council is utilising Nottingham City Council Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Energy Efficient Retrofit Installers CPU 4591 that complies with the council’s contract

	<p>procedure rules.</p> <p>The project will be run through the councils Keep Herefordshire Warm service and a separate variation (funded separately is being pursued for this)</p> <p><u>Equality</u> The service provider will be required to have a written equality statement or policy that demonstrates compliance with the Equalities Act 2010. They must demonstrate how their organisation will comply with the Equalities Act 2010.</p> <p><u>Social Value Consideration</u> Details of the Social Value considerations identified by the Procurement Team under the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 will be included in the tendering documentation.</p> <p><u>Risks</u> Reputational Risk: There is a reputational risk if the council chooses not to deliver this activity. This project utilises the UKSPF funding to target able to pay homeowners to increase the energy efficiency of their homes.</p> <p>Budget is not fully allocated: The budget (2023/24 and 2024/25) will be procured and Herefordshire Council will hold regular monitoring meetings to ensure that planned activities are delivered on time and that outputs and outcomes are achieved as planned. The project will be launched early in 2024.</p> <p>Not meeting the required outputs We will hold regular meeting with the selected supplier to discuss work progress, identify challenges and provide solutions in order to achieve the outputs and outcomes. As this is a proof of concept project the UKSPF funding will be called off the contract only satisfying the demand.</p> <p>External Factors: Economic downturn/ resurgence of pandemic lockdown conditions. This would impact on the council's ability to deliver the grant scheme contractual requirements. We would seek to mitigate this by seeking to extend the delivery timescale with DLUHC.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>The council has no other funding for community measures to reduce the cost of living, and if the council does not utilise UKSPF for this project, or for other activities within measure E13 before March 2024, the money will be lost to the county.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Signed

Date: