

EXECUTIVE

Wednesday, 15th March, 2023
6.30 pm





EXECUTIVE

ROOMS 2 & 3, BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday, 15th March, 2023 at 6.30 pm

Members are reminded that if they have detailed questions on individual reports, they are advised to contact the report authors in advance of the meeting.

Members of the public may ask a question, make a statement, or present a petition relating to any agenda item or any matter falling within the remit of the committee.

Notice in writing of the subject matter must be given to the Head of Legal & Democracy by 5.00pm on the day before the meeting. Forms can be obtained for this purpose from the reception desk at Burnley Town Hall, Manchester Road or at the Contact Centre, Parker Lane, Burnley or from the web at: <http://burnley.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13234> . You can also register to speak via the online agenda. Requests will be dealt with in the order in which they are received.

There is limited space to accommodate members of the public due to Public Health guidance around social distancing. You are advised to contact democracy@burnley.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA

1) *Apologies*

To receive any apologies for absence.

2) *Minutes*

5 - 12

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2023.

3) *Additional Items of Business*

To determine whether there are any additional items of business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chair decides should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

4) Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Regulations, members are required to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

5) Exclusion of the Public

To determine during which items, if any, the public are to be excluded from the meeting.

6) Right To Speak

To consider questions, statements or petitions from members of the public.

7) Delivery Agent Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL)

13 - 20

To consider the approval of entering into a new contract with the procured delivery agent for ChiL.

8) Ex-offenders Government Support Grant

21 - 24

To consider the acceptance of a revenue funding award from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Councillor Afrasiab Anwar (Chair)
Councillor Sue Graham (Vice-Chair)
Councillor John Harbour

Councillor Shah Hussain
Councillor Margaret Lishman
Councillor Mark Townsend

PUBLISHED

Monday, 6 March 2023

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EXECUTIVE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Monday, 13th February, 2023 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillors A Anwar (Chair), S Graham (Vice-Chair), J Harbour, S Hussain, M Lishman and M Townsend

OFFICERS

Lukman Patel	– Chief Operating Officer
Howard Hamilton-Smith	– Head of Finance and Property
Amy Johnson	– Finance Manager
Alison McEwan	– Democracy Officer

81. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

82. Minutes of Individual Decisions

The minutes of Individual Decisions were noted.

83. Strategic Plan 2023

PURPOSE

To seek Executive endorsement of the Strategic Plan.

REASON FOR DECISION

The Strategic Plan sets out a clear vision for the future: one that is evidence based, shared by all units of the Council, and is in tune with the aspirations of local people.

DECISION

That the Executive recommend the Strategic Plan for approval by Full Council.

84. Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

PURPOSE

To seek Executive endorsement for the Council's Pay Policy Statement which is required to be published prior to the end of March each year.

REASON FOR DECISION

The Localism Act 2011 – [Chapter 8 - Pay Accountability], requires all local authorities to set out its position on a range of issues relating to the remuneration of its employees. The Pay Policy Statement must be approved by the Council in open forum, by the end of March each year and then be published on its website.

DECISION

As the Employer contribution rate would increase from April 2023, paragraph 35 on p8 of the Appendix document (p42 of the Executive Agenda pack) should be updated to include the wording in **bold** below.

35. The Council contributes to the Local Government Pension Scheme for its employees who are members of the Scheme which is 17.6% of an employee's salary (**from April 2023 this increases to 19.4%**). This rate of contribution is set by actuaries advising the Lancashire Pension Fund and is reviewed on a triennial basis.

Subject to the above amendment the Executive endorsed the report and recommended approval by Full Council.

85. Revenue Budget Monitoring Q3 2022/23

Purpose

To report the forecast outturn position for the year as at 31 March 2023 based upon actual spending and income to 31 December 2022.

Reason for Decision

To give consideration to the level of revenue spending and income in 2022/23 as part of the effective governance of the Council and to ensure that appropriate management action is taken to ensure a balanced financial position.

Decision

The Executive RESOLVED to:

- a. Note the projected revenue budget forecast position of a net underspend of £9k, as summarised in table 1 and detailed in Appendix 1. The net underspend of £9k has reduced from a forecast net overspend of £89k as reported in Quarter 2.

- b. Note the financial impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis as can be seen in paragraph 5. In view of these exceptional times the revenue monitoring position is uncertain.

And to recommend approval by Full Council for:

- c. The latest revised net budget of £15.322m as shown in Table 1, and
- d. The net transfers from earmarked reserves of £4.284m as shown in Appendix 2.
- e. The requested carry forwards of £419k as shown in Appendix 3.

86. Capital Budget Monitoring Q3 2022/23

PURPOSE

To provide Members with an update on capital expenditure and the resources position along with highlighting any variances.

REASON FOR DECISION

To effectively manage the 2022/23 capital programme.

DECISION

The Executive resolved to:

- a. Recommend to Full Council approval of net budget changes totalling a decrease of £18,513,011 giving a revised capital budget for 2022/23 totalling £20,225,741 as detailed in Appendix 1.
- b. Recommend to Full Council approval of the proposed financing of the revised capital budget totalling £20,225,741 as shown in Appendix 2.
- c. Note the latest estimated year end position on capital receipts and contributions showing an assumed balance of £5,617,708 at 31 March 2023 as shown in Appendix 3.

87. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/2028

PURPOSE

To consider the longer term financial outlook within the context of a Medium-Term Financial Strategy covering the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28, highlighting uncertainties, underlying risks and make recommendations to Council. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Revenue Budget 2023/24 and the associated statutory report of the Chief Finance Officer.

REASON FOR DECISION

Professional accounting practice recommends that a medium-term financial strategy is in place to ensure that resources are aligned to strategic intent and business objectives. It also provides a firm and robust basis on which to prepare the annual budget. Given the current financial climate, the need for consideration of the medium term financial position is pertinent to ensuring sustainable service delivery and for the Council to remain viable as a going concern.

DECISION

The Executive RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council:

1. Approval of the latest Medium-Term Financial Strategy;
2. Approval of the Reserves Strategy, as appended to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy;

And to:

3. Note that a refreshed document will be provided when required as an aid to monitoring the continued delivery of an annually balanced budget; and
4. Note the annual review of the Financial Management Code.

88. 2023/2024 Treasury Management Strategy and 2023/2024 Prudential and Treasury Indicators

PURPOSE

- a) To comply with the amended Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021.
- b) To outline a Treasury Management Strategy Statement for the financial year 2023/24.
- c) To set out prudential indicators for the financial years 2023/26 in line with the CIPFA's Prudential Code 2021.
- d) To seek approval for the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24 in accordance with Government regulations.

REASON FOR DECISION

- a) To provide the proper basis required by current Government regulations and guidance to make charges for debt repayment (MRP) to the Council's revenue account.
- b) To fulfil statutory and regulatory requirements and to provide a clear framework for local authority capital finance and treasury management.

DECISION

That the Executive RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council approval of:

- a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) The prudential and treasury indicators for 2023/24 to 2025/2026 per Appendix 2 including the authorised limit for external debt of £96.918m in 2023/24;
- c) The list of Counterparties for Deposits outlined within Appendix 3.
- d) The Council's MRP Statement for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

89. Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24

PURPOSE

To present the findings of the Council Tax Support Scheme consultation with regards to temporarily increasing the maximum level of subsidy for working age claimants, from 85% to 100%, for the 2023/24 scheme only.

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide temporary support, by increasing the level of subsidy to a maximum of 100%, for eligible working age claimants within the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 to help alleviate some of the financial hardship caused by the cost-of-living crisis.

DECISION

That the Executive RESOLVED to recommend that Full Council approve and adopt changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 to increase the maximum level of subsidy for working age claimants from 85% to 100% for a one-year period.

90. Revenue Budget 2023/24

PURPOSE

To consider the estimates of revenue income and expenditure for 2023/24 and to make recommendations to Full Council about next year's Revenue Budget.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. To fulfil the Council's statutory obligation to calculate its Council Tax requirement as set out in Section 31A of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended by section 74 of the Localism Act 2011).
2. To set a balanced budget for the financial year 2023/24 that ensures the viability of the Council and aligns resources to the Council's strategic priorities.

DECISION

That the Executive RESOLVED to recommend that Full Council:

- i) Endorse the approach that has been adopted in developing budget proposals that reflect the Council's Strategic Objectives for 2023/24;
- ii) Approve the proposals contained in this report;
- iii) Set a Council Tax Requirement of £7,722,735 for the financial year 2023/24;
- iv) Set a Net Budget Requirement of £16,266,712 for 2023/24;
- v) Receive and consider the statutory report issued by the Head of Finance and Property under the Local Government Act, 2003;
- vi) Authorise the Chief Operating Officer/Heads of Service to progress action plans to deliver the 2023/24 budget;
- vii) Approve a Council Tax (Band D) figure of £328.01 for this Council for the year commencing 1st April 2023 and adopt the statutory resolution to set the full Council Tax for the year. This is equivalent to a 2.99% Council tax increase.

91. Capital Budget 2023/24 and Capital Investment Programme 2023/28

PURPOSE

To recommend approval of the capital budget for 2023/24.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To establish a capital budget that reflects the Council's overall priorities and provides a framework for capital spending to be undertaken during 2023/24.

DECISION

The Executive RESOLVED;

- a) That Full Council be recommended to:
 - (i) Approve the 2023/24 Capital Budget, totalling £41,357,215 as set out in Appendix 1.
 - (ii) Note the 2023-28 Capital Investment Programme as set out in Appendix 1.

- (iii) Note the estimated position on capital resources as set out in Appendix 2.
- b) That subject to the approval of a) (i) above the Executive approve the release of capital scheme budgets including slippage from 2022/23, subject to compliance with the Financial Procedure Rules and that there will be full compliance with Standing Orders for Contracts.
- c) To Approve of the Capital Strategy 2023-28, as set out in Appendix 4.

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Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL)

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	15th March 2023
PORTFOLIO	Housing
REPORT AUTHOR	Clare Jackson
TEL NO	(01282) 425011 EXT 7231
EMAIL	cjackson@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval for the Council to extend its membership of the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) consortium for a further 4 years from April 2023.
2. To seek approval to sign a contract with the appointed delivery agent for the provision of CHiL.
3. To adopt a Lancashire wide Statement of Intent (Appendix 1) so that residents can access Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4 LA flex) funding.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That the Executive approve the continued membership of the above consortium for a further 4 years from April 2023.
5. That delegated authority is given to the Head of Housing and Development Control in consultation with the Executive Member to negotiate and agree the terms of the delivery agent contract.
6. That delegated authority is given to the Head of Legal and Democratic services to sign the indemnity letter and delivery agent contract.
7. To approve the Council's participation in the Lancashire Statement of Intent for ECO 4 LA Flexible Funding.
8. That the Head of Housing and Development Control is authorised to sign a declaration confirming that a resident of Burnley meets the eligibility criteria for ECO 4 LA Flexible Funding.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

9. To deliver energy efficiency measures and advice to residents through CHiL to reduce fuel poverty.
10. To deliver the Green Homes Grant funding, the Home Upgrade Grants and other financial assistance through CHiL to Burnley residents.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

11. CHiL is the name of the countywide energy efficiency and affordable warmth initiative. It offers an accessible and straightforward means of accessing grants from energy companies and other sources to fund new heating measures, insulation and renewable technologies in domestic properties. In June 2021 the Council entered a contract with RHEA, the delivery agent for CHiL. This contract expires at the end of March 2023.
12. The CHiL collaboration was created in 2013 and has grown steadily since then to become the exemplar model of retrofit delivery that exists today. Current membership includes the majority of districts in Lancashire, plus the unitary authorities of Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire County Council.
13. Since its inception, almost 14,000 measures have been installed in fuel poor and vulnerable households in Burnley have benefitted from a range of improvements improving the energy efficiency of their homes and reducing the cost of fuel bills. ECO funding is a complicated funding stream which CHiL will continue to access for residents where it is the only option available to them. At this point it is worth highlighting other Government funded schemes which CHiL has delivered extremely successfully in Lancashire. This is funding that has been given directly to Local Authorities to administer with Blackpool Council acting as the Lead Authority.
14. During the partnership substantial funding for energy improvement measures and retrofits has been awarded through a bidding process from Government. £2.85m for a Lancashire LAD1b scheme. A further £11.4m was allocated for a LAD2 scheme which was delivered ahead of time and a further £13m was allocated from underspend in other Regions. Burnley was one of the authorities that received the highest number of installation measures in Lancashire for the LAD1 and 2 schemes. £8.7m of Home Upgrade Grant funding to deliver energy efficiency measures to 450 properties has also been secured, with delivery of this scheme now underway. Qualifying properties are those that do not have gas central heating and are classed as energy inefficient. This scheme is due to end March 2023 but an application was submitted in November 2022 to request a further £36m for the next 2 years which will deliver energy efficiency improvements to a further 2000 properties across Lancashire.
15. The ethos of CHiL is the same today as it was in 2013 which is not to compete with commercial installers of energy efficiency measures and to do as many installations as possible. CHiL works with the local supply chain and 3rd sector organisations to help those

most in need, those with life challenges and those who need support to get heating and insulation interventions.

16. As the contract with the current delivery agent ends in March 2023, Officers from across Lancashire have been working with Procurement at Blackpool Council to finalise Tender Documentation, advertising the contract in early December with a closing date for applications by the 17th January 23. A panel of Officers from across the County has undertaken the evaluation and interviewing processes.
17. As part of this ongoing Lancashire wide partnership, as is often the case with such projects we are being asked to sign the partnership indemnity letter and enter into the contract with the new delivery agent. The indemnity letter requests that the partner authorities agree to Blackpool being the lead authority and that there is a shared responsibility across all the authorities for the delivery of the project.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 Local Authority Flex

18. ECO4 is the fourth phase of ECO. As part of its Sustainable Warmth Strategy, the Government has extended the ECO grant for an extra four years, meaning it will run until March 2026. The primary goal of this grant is to support low-income households who are unable to upgrade their homes and heating systems.
19. Through the ECO Flexible funding every local authority can make a declaration to an energy company for a qualifying resident to receive a range of energy efficiency measures. To take part in ECO Flex each local authority must have a statement of intent (SOI) which details the criteria for a qualifying resident. The SOI has been agreed through ChiL as a Lancashire SOI and is contained within Appendix 1 to this report.
20. The Lancashire SOI also states that to be considered for LA flex a resident has to go through the CHiL scheme to get measures installed by the schemes approved installer. This arrangement was not unique to Lancashire as other schemes similar to CHiL operate around the Country. This arrangement provides assurance that the appropriate checks for eligibility and quality of work have been carried out and removes the pressure from councils who alternatively would have to carry out the required verifications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

21. All funding costs including administrative are included in the various grants from Government. Blackpool as the lead and accountable local authority receive the grant on behalf of the consortium members.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

22. In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and subsequently developed the Climate Change Strategy 2022- 2026. The CHiL consortium and recommendations

contained within this report help to achieve the objectives of the strategy by improving the energy efficiency of homes in the Borough which reduces carbon emissions.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

23. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

24. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Clare Jackson 7321

ALSO: Paul Gatrell 7230

Statement of Intent for ECO4

Cosy Homes in Lancashire

ECO4 Flexible Eligibility

Consortium of Lancashire Local Authorities

Publication Date: XX/XX/XXXX

Version number: V.1

Publication on web site: www.XXXXXX.gov.uk

Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) is a partnership of 11 districts and two unitary councils in Lancashire as well as the County Council under which domestic energy efficiency schemes are delivered pan-Lancashire.

Participating Local Authorities include Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Blackpool Council, Burnley Council, Chorley Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Wyre Council.

This statement sets out the CHiL flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from November 2022 – March 2026.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme will improve the least energy efficient homes helping to meet the Government’s fuel poverty and net zero commitments.

The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as “ECO4 Flex”.

CHiL welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

CHiL is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the **XX/XX/XXXX** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1: SAP bands D-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: SAP bands E-G households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

<p>Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)¹, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019², or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government³</p>
<p>Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).</p>
<p>Proxy 3) Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.</p>
<p>Proxy 4) A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.</p>
<p>Proxy 5) A householder supported by a LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.</p>
<p>Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen's Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.</p>

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by their doctor or GP as low- income and vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be impacted further by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

This is because CHiL has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

Route 4: SAP band D-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through CHiL to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

The officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: XXXX XXXX

Job Title: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Telephone: XXXXX XXXXXX

Email: XXXXXX@XXXXX.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

CHiL will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Dedicated Responsible Person within the Authority will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with CHiL's data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.

Signature: XXXXXX

Name: XXXX XXXX

Job Title: CEO/ dedicated responsible person

Date of signature: XX/XX/XXXX

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact XXXXXX@XXXXX.gov.uk.

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	15th March 2023
PORTFOLIO	Housing & Development Control
REPORT AUTHOR	Wilma Waddingham
TEL NO	01282 477242
EMAIL	wwaddingham@burnley.gov.uk

EX-OFFENDERS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT GRANT

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval to accept the funding award from the Accommodation for Ex-offenders Programme to allow for the continuation of an East Lancashire wide programme of services targeted at reducing repeat offending by accessing settled accommodation and providing support.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive,

Approves acceptance of the revenue funding award of £232,808 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to allow for the continuation of funding for 2 x support officer posts working within Calico's Gateway Housing Project and the provision of incentive packages to assist with access into the private rented sector.

Delegates authority to the Head of Housing and Development Control to negotiate and enter into the relevant agreements with Pendle Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, as partner local authorities, and Calico Homes as service provider, for the receipt of the funding and the delivery of the services.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To continue to provide support to ex-offenders to access and sustain their own accommodation with the aim of reduction re-offending in the future.

To assist the Council to meet its statutory duties to prevent and relieve homelessness.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Since 2021 authorities in East Lancashire have worked together to secure accommodation for ex-offenders funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing

and Communities and have commissioned Calico Homes to deliver this support on their behalf. The Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Programme (AFEO) was introduced to support homeless prison leavers to access the private rented sector and reduce the instances of rough sleeping and reoffending.

The funding and services provided assist the council in fulfilling its statutory duties in relation to preventing and relieving homelessness.

Between 2021 and 2023 Pendle Borough Council led on the bid on behalf of the East Lancashire local authorities, but in 2023 the funding criteria was changed with Burnley Borough Council being the only authority able to bid on behalf of East Lancashire Authorities.

In order to ensure East Lancashire Councils continued to benefit from AFEO funding Burnley Borough Council agreed to act as lead authority and submit a joint bid on behalf of Rossendale, Pendle, Hyndburn and Ribblesdale Councils. The bid was successful, and the Councils have been awarded a total of £232,808 to support ex-offenders into settled accommodation. The funding runs up to 31st March 2025. The proposal is to fund 2 AFEO support workers to work across the five local authority areas to provide support and assistance to ex-offenders to secure and settle into permanent housing in the private rented sector.

This funding will be received in two tranches per year.

April 2023 - £58,202

Sept 2023 - £58,202

April 2024 - £58,202

Sept 2024 - £58,202

AFEO Support Officer

Calico Homes have provided AFEO support officers since 2021 on behalf of East Lancashire local authorities and it is proposed to continue to fund this service from the funding award. The service operates out of Calico's Gateway Housing Project and seeks to identify suitable housing and support for those individuals who are leaving prison or have served a prison sentence within the last 12 months. The project will employ two full time officers at a cost of £137,500 over a two-year period up to 31st March 2025.

The project will aim to assist an estimated 80 ex-offenders over the two-year period across the five local authority areas.

Incentives

Additional funding of £95,308 has been awarded as part of the AFEO fund to provide incentive packages to private sector landlord to assist and support clients into private rented accommodation. This package can include, bonds, rent in advance and starter packs for the clients. The overall aim of the programme is to provide the right support and assistance to reduce re-offending and returns to prison.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

5. The funding award will cover the costs of providing 2 x AFEO support officers in full for two years that will assist an estimated 80 ex-offenders across East Lancashire into settled accommodation. The support officers will be employed through Calico Homes, the project funded in full from the grant award and there will be no costs borne by the Council.

As the applicant and recipient of the funding there is a risk of claw back to the Council if the funding is not judged to have been spent in accordance with the grant conditions. Due to the experience gained from the previous operation of the programme and the good partnership working between the five local authorities and Calico Homes this is considered to be a very low risk.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no direct policy implications. This scheme will be delivered within the Councils existing policy framework which supports the Prevention of Homelessness Strategy.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

7. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Wilma Waddingham 01282 477242

ALSO:

Paul Gatrell 01282 477230

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