

Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) - The Green Homes Grant

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Housing
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PURPOSE

1. To seek approval to sign a contract with Rhea Project Limited for the provision of Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) delivery partner.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Head of Legal and Democratic services signs the indemnity letter and delivery partner contract.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To delivery energy efficiency measures and advice to residents through CHiL to reduce fuel poverty.
4. To deliver the Green Homes Grant funding through CHiL to Burnley residents.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

5. Through a procurement process led by Blackpool Council Rhea Projects Limited was appointed to delivery energy efficiency measures across Lancashire. 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.
6. This partnership has been operating for over 5 years. In 2015 Lancashire was successful in securing £2.24 million from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)'s

Central Heating Fund (CHF). In addition each local authority contributed £7000 which was agreed by the Chief Finance Officer.

7. This was in addition to the ECO funding provided by Scottish and Southern Energy funding of £3.5 million. This brought the total to £6 million to provide grants across Lancashire enabling significant reductions in energy bills and an increase in the 'thermal comfort' of homes, leading to a reduction in cold-related illnesses and associated GP and hospital visits.
8. In July 2020 the Government announced a £2 billion Green Homes Grant scheme, £500 million of which was allocated to Local Authorities to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households by installing insulation measures and renewable heating technologies. Through the Lancashire partnership £2 million has been secured through round 1b for distribution across Lancashire. In addition a further £12 million has been awarded to Lancashire through round 2.
9. As part of the 1b funding, 20 properties that are owned by Calico have been identified as suitable for the insulation measures. Letters are going out to those households this week. While any low income household can apply through CHiL, we will be targeting houses that have the lowest Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings. While it is a full grant to owner occupiers, social and private landlords are required to pay one third towards the cost of the installation measures. The maximum grant for owner occupiers household is £10,000. It is estimated that at least 100 households in Burnley will benefit from the grant. 67 applications have already been received.
10. Blackpool are the lead authority for round 1b and 2. The Government Grant is paid to Blackpool who then pay the money to Rhea on completion of the grants.
11. 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 Rhea. 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. The procurement process to appoint Rhea Projects Limited in 2018 was led by Blackpool through an open tender and evaluated by representatives from Public Health Commissioners, Care and Repair Managers and Home Energy Officers from Blackpool, Lancashire, Wyre and Blackburn Councils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

12. All funding costs including administrative are included in the Green Homes Grant from Government.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. To deliver carbon reduction targets, improve the energy efficiency ratings of properties in the Borough and reduce fuel poverty.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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