

Individual Member Decision



DATE	26/09/2022
PORTFOLIO	Housing and Development Control
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Affordable Warmth Grant

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to accept and spend the £88,000 Affordable Warmth Grant from Lancashire County Council as set out in appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing and Development Control approves the acceptance and spending of £88,000 to provide high impact affordable warmth interventions to individuals who are the most vulnerable to harm from cold homes as set out in this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To reduce levels of fuel poverty and associated illnesses over the winter months especially during the “Energy Crisis”.
4. To improve people's wellbeing, prevent hospital admissions and demand for health and social care services.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

5. This winter with the current energy crisis more residents will be in fuel poverty, which means more households falling into debt and cutting back on other essentials. People may be afraid to heat their homes leading to excess cold and associated poor health which can then lead to increased hospital admissions.
6. The funding will be used in Burnley to deliver interventions during the winter months. These interventions will be aimed at the most vulnerable on the lowest incomes and will

include: boiler servicing, draught proofing, floor coverings, replacement of defective windows and doors, the provision of carbon monoxide detectors, fuel top up payments and winter packs as set out in appendix 1 to this report.

7. Being on a low income, living in a thermal inefficient home, having higher heating needs, and high fuel costs can all increase the risks of living in a cold home. The funding is aimed at the most vulnerable to harm from cold or damp homes. This could include a wide range of individuals who either are, or are at serious risk of, experiencing poor health and wellbeing due to a cold home.
8. Households will be eligible for funding if they meet at least one of the following vulnerabilities and have a low income:

Vulnerabilities:

- people with a diagnosed cardiovascular conditions
- people with a diagnosed respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with diagnosed mental health conditions
- people with diagnosed disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (up to the age of 5)
- pregnant women
- people who are terminally ill
- people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
- people who have attended hospital due to a fall

Low income

Low income can be confirmed in one of the following three ways:

- Someone being in receipt of means tested benefits
 - Have a total household income not in excess of £31,000
 - A 'declaration' by the Local Authority or health / social care professional that affordability issues are present.
9. Whilst the funding will be first targeted at those that are vulnerable and on a low income Councils have the further option to support people that do not have a specific vulnerability as listed above, but do have a significant low income and energy efficiency issue.
 10. The number of grant approvals are subject to available funding and will distributed in date order from the date an application is received. When the funding is spent, Officers will look at other ways to support residents through the work of the home improvement agency and other partners such as Cosy Homes in Lancashire or Burnley Together.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION
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11. None. The programme is grant funded from Lancashire County Council at £88,000 and will be delivered through the Council's existing Home Improvement Agency.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. Objective 2 - of the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2022 details the need to achieve higher standards of energy efficiency in new and existing buildings. The Affordable Warmth Grant will help achieve this as well as supporting the commitment detailed in the Strategic Plan of working on the wider determinants of poor health.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: Clare Jackson

ALSO: Paul Walker