

REPORT FOR: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 13 November 2014

Subject: Addition to Capital Programme of expenditure funded by Grant received by the Council to deliver insulation works in private homes under the terms of the Green Deal Communities Fund

Responsible Officer: Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report seeks to add to the Capital Programme, the budget for the expenditure on energy efficiency improvements to privately owned properties in the Borough, which is funded by a grant received from the Department of Energy and Climate Change under the Green Deal Communities Fund, following approval by Cabinet on 14 April 2014.

Recommendations:

That the expenditure of £1,357,100 capital grant funding on energy efficiency improvements in private homes as approved by Cabinet on 10th April 2014 be added to the Capital Programme for 2014-15.

Section 2 – Report

The Council made a successful bid for grant funding to deliver a number of initiatives to provide warmer homes to private residents in Harrow. Following approval by Cabinet on 10th April 2014 to delegate authority for the award of a contract and in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, this report now seeks approval by Council to add this expenditure to the Capital Programme.

The background and options considered were set out in the report to Cabinet on 14th April 2014 and are summarised below.

In 2013 the Council submitted a bid to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for grant funding to deliver a number of initiatives to provide warmer homes to residents in Harrow's private housing stock.

Officers in Environment & Enterprise submitted the bid, before the service transferred to Housing in January 2014. Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) who provided the grant funding have been quite prescriptive about the way it is spent and have required us to target a designated area of the Borough where there was known fuel poverty and promote the scheme on a street by street approach.

The Council was awarded a grant of £1,457,100, of which £1,357,100 is capital which DECC want us to make every effort to spend by 31 March 2015. However they have indicated that it may be possible to slip some of the expenditure into the next financial year, but this will depend on take up rates and any circumstances that delay delivery of the project-such as bad weather.

Householders cannot have the improvements completely free of charge. Whilst costs will be reduced by a combination of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Green Deal Communities Fund every household will be expected to make a financial contribution towards works in their homes.

A partner to deliver these works has already been selected in line with the Council's approved procurement processes.

Financial Implications

Grant funding of £1,457,100, has already been received from the Department of Energy & Climate Change. The grant is expected to be spent by 31 March 2015 but there may be some slippage on this, in discussion with DECC.

The Council has already selected the contractors and let the contract in line with the Council's procurement processes.

Formal approval by Council to include this spend in the capital programme is now required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Risk Management implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes
Separate risk register in place? Yes

There are risks in the delivery of the project both in terms of customer take up rates and bad weather that may delay completion of works. These are monitored regularly both with the contractor and DECC.

Equalities implications

There is no change to the policy detailed in the climate change strategy. Homes that are known to be in areas of deprivation within the borough and in fuel poverty will be targeted for the improvements.

Council priorities

This report incorporates the administration's priorities:

Making a difference for the most vulnerable

Making a difference for communities

Making a difference for local businesses

Making a difference for families

by ensuring that households in fuel poverty have the opportunity to have warmer homes delivered through grant funding.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Steve Tingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28th October 2014		
Name: Linda X Cohen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 28 th October 2014		

Section 4 - Contact Details

Maggie Challoner, Head of Asset Management

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Background Papers: Report to Cabinet 10th April 2014 Appointment of a contractor to deliver works arising from a successful bid to Department of Energy and Climate Change under the Green Deal Communities Fund.