

## Report for: **Cabinet**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Green Homes Grant Scheme – request to utilise grant funding awarded via lead Borough Ealing
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Nick Powell, Divisional Director of Housing
<b>Portfolio Holders:</b>	Councillor Philip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Housing. Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1: Risk register

### Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Following a successful coalition bid for Green Homes Grant (tranche 1a) between 7 West London Boroughs, this report requests Cabinet to approve the collaboration of Harrow Council with coalition partners to identify private properties in the Borough which can benefit from grant funding held by London Borough of Ealing to meet Government Green Energy targets.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

- a. Approve the request to grant the Housing Asset Management Team permission to collaborate with the lead Borough Ealing to utilise the funding awarded under the Green Homes Grant (GHG) coalition bid to enable retrofit solutions works to be delivered via an appointed managing agent within the lead Borough. The value of the grant is £4.783 million in total and £580,793 of this can be used to support works on private properties within Harrow.
  - b. Tranche 1a will involve the Council recommending privately owned/ private rented properties for works. The full cost of works will be met by grant payments from Ealing Council with no financial impact on the Council's General Fund or HRA and no impact on the Council's borrowing requirement.
- 1.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Community, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and, Portfolio Holder for Finance/ Resources and, Director of Finance to:
- b. Note a potential second phase of funding (tranche1b) if the lead Borough are successful with the submission bid. A total bid of £14.5 million on behalf of 10 Boroughs could amount to an additional sum of up to £1.232m per Borough. If the bid is successful, we will seek permission to collaborate with the lead Borough Ealing to utilise the funding awarded under the Green Homes Grant (GHG) coalition bid from the delegated authority mentioned in 1.2.
  - c. Tranche 1b, if successful will require the Council to contribute £75,000 from the HRA. We will seek approval from the delegated authority mentioned in 1.2, to allow us to contribute the £75,000 required in line with Grant Contribution requirements.

This route will enable the Council to: -

- Address the Climate Change Emergency that Harrow Council has declared with retrofit measures.
- Target not only Harrow's poorest energy performing stock but also those households in greatest need helping to reduce fuel poverty.
- Contribute to helping the local Harrow economy by providing opportunities for local training within colleges and employment opportunities, via agreed social value contribution/ commitments.
- Carry out retrofit measures to private properties supported by Grant funding from Ealing Council, with no cost to the Council for phase 1a. Costs for tranche1b to be quantified and reported to Cabinet as appropriate.

### **Reason: (for recommendations)**

1. Due to the estimated value of the proposed contract award we require Cabinet authorisation to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure rules and to enable us to utilise this grant funding.

2. Private properties in Harrow can benefit from grant received directly from Ealing Council under phase 1a to meet Government Green Energy targets.

Once details have been finalised for 1b, Cabinet will be requested to approve an addition to the Capital programme as part of the quarterly monitoring cycle.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

- 2.1 In July 2020, government announced £2 billion of support through the Green Homes Grant (GHG) to save households money, cut carbon emissions and create green jobs.
- 2.2 The GHG is comprised of up to £1.5 billion of support through energy efficiency vouchers and up to £500m of support allocated to English Local Authority (LA) delivery partners, through the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme.
- 2.3 The GHG LAD scheme sets out to improve the worst-quality homes in England by installing Eligible Measures and the initial LAD scheme (tranche 1a), aims to provide up to £200m to Local Authorities to deliver the Eligible Measures in Eligible Households.
- 2.4 The primary purpose of the GHG LAD is to raise the energy efficiency rating of low income (under £30,000 household income) and low EPC rated households (those with E, F or G ratings). In addition to our private sector dwellings in tranche 1a and 1b, tranche 1b has also widened its scope and Harrow has placed a bid to retrofit 30 Council properties.  
Landlord grants (for both private and social rented accommodation) are capped at £5,000 and for owner occupied properties an 'average of £10,000' can be utilised from the GHG: LAD.
- 2.5 An allocation of up to £300 per property for enabling works has been factored in which may include surveys, to ensure that all properties are ready for install, and there will be some capacity to 'average' this if needed, as some properties may not require any enabling works.  
  
Some boroughs will offer top up funding to ensure that as much funding as possible is utilised across their stock, but Harrow do not have the necessary budget to enable this and works will be carried out entirely from the capital grant support provided directly from Ealing Council with no financial impact on Harrow Council.
- 2.6 This is expected to result in the following outcomes:

- a. **Tackle fuel poverty** by increasing low-income household's energy efficiency rating and therefore reducing their energy bills;
- b. **Support clean growth** and ensure homes are thermally comfortable, efficient, and well-adapted to climate change.
- c. **Support economic resilience and a green recovery** in response to the economic impacts of Covid-19, creating thousands of jobs; and
- d. **Use learnings from the delivery experience** to inform the development and design of further energy efficiency and heat schemes.

Partners include:

- London Borough of Harrow;
- London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham;
- London Borough of Brent;
- London Borough of Hounslow;
- London Borough of Lambeth;
- Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
and for 1b the additional Boroughs that have joint this tranche are:-
- London Borough of Hillingdon
- London Borough of Newham
- London Borough of Barnet

- 2.7 The GHG LAD scheme opened applications on 4 August 2020, with a deadline of 1 September 2020, and a condition that all works being delivered were complete by 31 March 2021, (grant funding to be deployed by 31 March 2021).
- 2.8 On 30 September 2020 the consortium was informed that our bid was successful. It was agreed that the grant amount would be shared equally amongst all members within the consortium.
- 2.9 Due to the announcement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche (1b) of funding by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the onset of a second wave of national lockdown, the bid had to be revisited. There were numerous discussions between the consortium partners about what could realistically be achieved and whether to request an extension for part 1a. Ealing as the lead Borough, approached BEIS to discuss an extension of the March end date for tranche 1a to align with the tranche 1b delivery deadline of 30th September 2021.
- 2.10 Ealing were advised by BEIS to revisit the conversation in March so that there is evidence and reporting post-delivery that can show the trajectory of the project so far. This project was due out to site in January, but discussions are now taking place around viability to

extend the deadline to enable a completion of works, especially in relation to a new wave of national lockdown. This is discussed further in **Section 4 - Current Situation**.

- 2.11 Under the apportioned grant funding Harrow Council can identify and recommend works up to a value of £580,793 relating to privately owned/ rented properties. Table below shows how this allocation is arrived at:

LAD overall grant	£4,783,000
Overall admin fee-Ealing	-£717,450
For allocation	£4,065,550
No. LA delivery partners	7
Allocation per Authority	£580,793

The full LAD grant awarded was £4.783m, and the grant conditions allow 15% to be spent by Ealing Council on administrative and enabling costs, i.e. £717,450. The total value of the competitive open tender has been calculated to amount to £4.06m, which is below the EU threshold of £4.73m.

- 2.12 The grant award covers all costs of delivery and requires no additional budget from the Council for the first tranche 1a.

### **3. Options considered**

- 3.1 Options were considered as to how to best to approach the submission and the options were: -

**(a). Individual bid application for Harrow.**

Consideration was given to submitting an individual bid for Harrow, but it was agreed that it would be a more efficient approach to collaborate with other Boroughs to submit a joint bid.

**(b). Submitting a joint consortium bid**

This was the preferred option as there was much to be gained by teaming with our neighbouring Boroughs. This would mean that consortium Boroughs can share technical expertise, provide a joint voice to Government and get improved economies of scale.

With relevant staff already in post, and previous bid experience and success there was a more experienced resource to address issues and expertly collate all requirements in relation to the bid.

**(c). Do nothing**

This was not an option as the Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and want to actively participate in applying for and winning

bids so that we are able to access more funding for this particular type of work going forward.

- 3.2 Options were also considered as to how to best to approach the award/ utilisation of relevant grant funding and the options were: -

**(a). To utilise the funding**

It was agreed that if Harrow were to be awarded funding that we would seek Cabinet approval to draw down and utilise the apportioned amount attributed to Harrow at tranche 1a, and to bring notification of a further tranche of potential funding 1b to Cabinet's attention at the same time.

**(b). To not utilise the funding**

This was not an option.

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and want to actively participate in applying for and winning bids so that we are able to access more funding for this particular type of work going forward.

## **4. Current situation**

- 4.1 The Consortium plans to carry out a minimum of 400 energy efficiency retrofits, initially targeting owner-occupied homes belonging to pensioners earning under £16,000 and privately rented properties in breach of compliance. However, we are also targeting other groups on low incomes in poorly energy performing homes through letter drops etc.

- 4.2 Each Borough is working towards the identification of a minimum of 50 homes which currently have an EPC in place and are eligible for participation based on income/benefits analysis. As Ealing are the lead Borough for this grant application the Government has awarded £4.783m to Ealing Council to deliver private-sector home energy retrofits on behalf of the seven-Borough consortium.

For tranche 1a there is no financial impact on the Council as the works will be paid for by Ealing Council based on the allocation above.

- 4.3 Ealing have followed their internal governance to request Cabinet for authority to tender to appoint a managing agent to assess the initial 350 homes as soon as the contract is awarded (January award). All Consortium Boroughs are following their necessary governance in order to inform all members, and to request authorisation to utilise their apportioned funding via Ealing, whom have been awarded the grant funding on behalf of the consortium.
- 4.4 Approval has been granted to invite tenders and award a contract to deliver home energy retrofits under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) scheme.

**At the time of writing this report the Consortium were not due to be on site till January and the grant conditions require all works to be delivered by 31 March 2021, however with a third national lockdown in place, this could have a potential impact on the schedule originally planned for, and will most likely incur delay.**

To this effect Ealing will continue to discuss the situation and timelines with BEIS as well as any appointed managing agent so that there is a clear understanding of what the capacity and realistic timelines for delivery will be once we better understand the new guidance and COVID safety practices of the winning bidder. We will keep all necessary parties updated.

In addition to the above the lead borough, Ealing have also submitted an Early Day motion to continue to put pressure on the government to extend the GHG: LAD deadlines, especially now that we are in a nation-wide lockdown. They have requested Government that the LAD deadline be extended to align deadlines for all phases of the LAD scheme to the Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme deadline of March 2022.

- 4.5 Up to a 50 additional homes per Borough will 'self-select' to participate in the LAD scheme, bringing the total homes to be assessed for works to 700. It is anticipated a combination of a letter drop to qualifying households and enhanced communications will bring forward these "self-selected" homes. Each identified eligible home will receive a retrofit assessment and EPC if a valid EPC is not in place. Total number of properties eligible will be variable as a mix of owner occupiers (grant £10k) and private rented landlords (grant £5k) are eligible and will be dependent on the final take up of each group.
- 4.6 The managing agent will work to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority scheme on behalf of Consortium Boroughs to deliver £4m worth (£4,065,550.00) of grant funded works for energy efficient upgrades to low income, low energy performing homes across the Consortium Boroughs using a procurement procedure based on the OJEU open tender procedure.
- 4.7 Additionally, the Consortium will endeavour to work with existing local fuel poverty programmes, Age UK, Dementia Concern, Council/NHS services working with vulnerable groups, and community groups to identify eligible residents in need of energy efficiency measures, including those who were unable to participate in previous schemes, such as the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- 4.8 The Consortium anticipates insulation, air source heat pumps and replacement windows and doors to be the top recommendations from these plans.
- 4.9 TrustMark/MCS certified installers will be used across the scheme, with an updated EPC issued upon completion of works. Homes with an

existing EPC will be prioritised to save time and money at the beginning of the project.

- 4.10 Those unable to benefit from tranche 1a of the LAD will be assisted in applying for other programmes. These homes may become eligible under our tranche 1b grant application, should it be successful.

### **Submission for 1b bid for additional grant – awaiting response from BEIS**

- 4.11 As stated previously, tranche1b was announced by BEIS and a further 3 Boroughs joined the Consortium bringing it to a total joint application on behalf of 10 boroughs. The Consortium have bid for £14.5 million on behalf of the Boroughs in this round. If we are successful with the application this would potentially amount to an additional £1.232 million per Borough to carry out a further 1,000 to 1,200 retrofit improvements. This means approximately between another 100 properties for each partner.
- 4.12 The application was submitted on 2nd December and we expect to know if the bid has been successful in January. Tranche 1b works will be able to begin as soon as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed and the first tranche of funding is received in January. This will essentially be concurrent to 1a.
- 4.13 In addition to our private sector dwellings in tranche 1a and 1b, tranche1b has also widened its scope and Harrow has placed a bid to retrofit 30 Council properties. The grant conditions for 1b have been relaxed slightly to include EPC rated D properties. These properties will require a 33% Housing Revenue Account (HRA) contribution. Hence total average resources available per social dwelling equates to £7.5k inclusive of borough contribution. While this bid has been placed through the Consortium we are one of four Boroughs who intend to use grant funding for our Council stock.
- 4.14 These properties are currently being identified and are subject to a 33% Borough contribution. The expected contribution is £75k and this will come from HRA Capital budget for carbon reduction projects in 2021/22.
- 4.15 As per the table below, the total grant award for the partnership is £4.783m of which 15% (£717m) can be allocated for administrative and enabling costs including surveys and the costs of the managing agent.

The element which is expected to directly relate to Harrow's participation is estimated at £580,793.00, based on an even split between Consortium Boroughs. Any variation from this expected allocation will be agreed with the partnering Boroughs.



	Funding	15% Admin Budget	Budget	Per-Borough	Borough contribution
<b>1A</b>	£4.783M (awarded)	£717,450	£4,065,550	£580,793	0
<b>1B</b>	£14.5M (Requested)	£ 2,175,000	£12,325,000	£1,232,500	£75,000
<b>Total</b>	£19,283,000	£2,892,450	£16,390,550	£1,813,293	£75,000

**grant award covers all costs of delivery and requires no additional budget from the Council for the first tranche 1a. Tranche 1b, if approved will require a £75k contribution from the HRA.**

## 5. Why a change is needed

- 5.1 Many local authorities including Harrow Council have declared Climate Emergencies, aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Whilst the declaration is only a first step in acknowledging the problem, assistance to create robust and deliverable action plans are starting to emerge, including the introduction of Green recovery schemes and funding opportunities such as the Green Homes Grant from central government.

- 5.2 The SCATTER local authority emissions calculation tool, developed by Manchester and Nottingham in collaboration with research partners, estimates that in the London Borough of Harrow, around 58% of our direct emissions, 262,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per annum, are attributable to residential properties, primarily from their gas heating requirements. Energy retrofit measures such as improved building fabric insulation can significantly reduce these existing gas heating requirements. In addition, in many cases it is possible to replace the gas heating system completely via heat pump technology, which uses electricity to extract and intensify heat from the environment in order to provide space heating and hot water to the home.

- 5.3 This funding opportunity will enable a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from some of the worst performing (in energy and emissions terms) housing stock in the Borough, whilst also helping to reduce energy costs for lower income residents.

## 6. Implications of the Recommendation

- 6.1 The recommendation path allows Harrow to work towards the Council's, London and Government targets for carbon reduction within the Borough. It also provides access via the lead authority, to much needed funding if we are to achieve these targets.

- 6.2 The recommendation will also ensure a warmer more thermally efficient home for our residents and an improvement in EPC rating thus reducing carbon emissions and making savings for our residents.

6.3 With the potential of an addition of grant funding for the second tranche (1b) we will be able to identify more homes that we are able to install relevant measures to, in order to provide thermal efficiency whilst reducing carbon emissions.

6.4 This recommendation will also provide much needed assistance to the local Harrow economy with opportunities for jobs and training as part of the Green Recovery.

## **7. Resources, costs /Staffing/workforce**

7.1 A Project Management Officer will be required as part of the delivery process. The Climate Action and sustainability team at Ealing will be responsible for monitoring and delivering outcomes of the project; and costs associated with the Project Manager officer time have been funded by the grant.

## **8. Ward Councillors' comments**

8.1 In response to the Council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and commitment to achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030, Harrow Council has made a commitment to deliver, and enable the delivery of retrofitting Borough housing stock to net-zero levels.

8.2 This grant gives the Council its first opportunity to deliver retrofits at scale, under a fully funded scheme for tranche 1a and potentially to follow through for tranche b were we to be successful. This forms part of a broader ambition to scale up retrofitting and upskill the local workforce via relevant social commitments by the winning supplier, which will help to start underpinning the growth of the green economy.

## **9. Performance Issues**

9.1 Clear considerations of what is expected from the Managing Agent have been set within the tender documents including the quality and workflow with the managing agent being responsible for managing the supply chain as well as any complaints arising or their supply chain.

The managing agent's contract will include provisions to cover the Councils in the event of contractor/sub-contractor poor performance.

9.2 Meetings will be held bi-monthly by Ealing Council and attended by partnering Boroughs as appropriate to identify any issues and discuss all related works for the upcoming weeks.

KPI's have been issued as part of the tender and monthly reporting to BEIS will inform whether these are being adhered to and will also inform on any corrective actions that need to be taken.

## **10. Environmental Implications**

- 10.1 The utilisation of this grant will enable the Council to start to meaningfully reduce fuel poverty for households within the Borough which results in community wealth generation by reducing the overall impact of heating and fuel costs for residents.
- 10.2 It is the intention that the delivery of any contract will contribute to the Council's objectives around social, economic and environmental sustainability.  
The appointed Managing Agent will be requested to do all it can to ensure that it supports Harrow's economy by buying locally wherever practical and maximise opportunities for local people in employment and training.

## **11. Data Protection Implications**

- 11.1 All personal data processed in connection with the contract will be carried out in full compliance with data protection laws including the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR.

## **12. Risk Management Implications**

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? Yes

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below. Yes

The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

- 12.1 The inability to deliver to the required timescales.

This is an issue that all Local Authorities are facing and are working with one another to resolve. The funder requires that all works are complete by 31 March 2021, therefore, permission to access and utilise the funds are being sought (via the lead Borough) as soon as possible so that the consortium can commence work and mitigate this risk.

In addition to this point as discussed at Section 2 above there has been ongoing conversation between BEIS and the leading Borough on the possibility of an extension; at the time of writing this report there is an assumption that an extension will be granted, but at the end of March, so that there is evidence and reporting post-delivery that can show the trajectory of the project so far.

**Additional update:** Due to a third national Lockdown further conversations are taking place with BEIS and relevant MP's to encourage government to agree to an extension so that these works can be carried out, as works start times will inevitably be delayed due to resulting restrictions nationwide.

Ealing will continue to discuss the situation and timelines with BEIS following as well as the appointed managing agent so that there is a clear understanding of what the capacity and realistic timelines for delivery will be once we better understand the new guidance and COVID safety practices of the winning bidder and we will keep all necessary parties updated.

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
<p><b>Delivery timescales</b> The funder requires all works to be completed by 31 March 2021</p>	<p>Work at pace to fulfil a compliant procurement process that produces the required delivery partner, who brings a robust supply chain that is committed to communication, quality and expediency. As stated above, it has been requested to extend project delivery timescales. This is already in discussion with BEIS. NB* this may be subject to Covid restrictions.</p>	<p>Significant/ Moderate</p>
<p><b>Bid response overwhelms capacity to award within timescales required to deliver bid outcomes</b> An open procurement method is being utilised. There may be a high number of bids, which will add time required for evaluation and award.</p>	<p>The team at Ealing will mitigate this risk by setting aside adequate time to complete evaluations and ensure partner boroughs are involved in the process.</p>	<p>Significant/ Moderate</p>
<p><b>Poor performance of managing agent or their supply chain</b> The chosen delivery agent and their supply chain may not perform as expected</p>	<p>The managing agent's contract will include provisions to cover the Council in the event of contractor/sub-contractor poor performance. This will include cover for claims from third parties; loss or damage to works, plant, materials and equipment; loss or damage to client property; and death or injury of employees. Ealing will schedule regular meetings with the contract management resources as well as the broader consortium.</p>	<p>Significant/ very low</p>
<p><b>Fraudulent claims made for installations</b> The delivery agent may attempt to make claims for works that haven't happened, haven't been completed, or that took place prior to launch date of the scheme</p>	<p>The invitation to tender and the terms and conditions of the managing agent's contract will include clear and consistent information regarding eligibility, data collection and compliance. Regular paperwork checks by both the lead authority and partners will ensure any works put forward for funding include auditable documentation to establish compliance.</p>	<p>Critical/ very low</p>
<p><b>Fraudulent conduct -grant beneficiary</b> A household in receipt of grant carries out identity theft or falsely claims low-income status</p>	<p>Ensure a grant agreement, which confirms identity has not be misrepresented, has been signed by the homeowner before scheduling works.</p>	<p>Critical/ very low</p>

12.7 In addition to the above, further identifiable risks (non-key risks) are detailed and attached at Appendix 1 (Risk Register).

### **13. Procurement Implications**

- 13.1 Ealing Council are leading on the procurement. The procurement value does not exceed the OJEU value for works and as a result Ealing Council have undertaken a Sub-OJEU procurement process in line with their internal rules for tranche1a.

#### **Managing agents and EPCs**

- 13.2 A managing agent will be appointed who will undertake EPCs on properties and arrange and have responsibility for the works completed at the eligible homes. The managing agent will either deliver the Works themselves or through their supply chain.

Where the managing agent uses a supply chain, and they will be encouraged to use local SMEs to undertake the Works in each Borough (provided they hold the TrustMark/MCS certification).

#### **Value For Money**

- 13.3 The grant application proposes a competitive tender process for a delivery agent to manage the programme on behalf of the seven Boroughs. The tender will call for costs related to the management of the programme and guaranteed maximum pricing for specific energy efficiency measures. These will be compared across bidders on a like for like basis, with award based on a mix of quality and cost.
- 13.4 The tender will also seek to deliver opportunities for local businesses to take on additional work in the partner Boroughs and set foundations for new employment opportunities over the longer term.

#### **Grant success for Phase 1b**

- 13.5 In the event that our consortium are successful in being awarded a second phase of grant funding, Ealing will lead the tender in line with their internal governance.

- 13.6 The threshold that has been set are:-**  
**Price 40%**  
**Quality 60% of which Social Value = 15%**

### **14. Legal Implications**

**Set out detailed legal implications of the proposed decision.**

- 14.1 Harrow Council, along with the other Consortium Boroughs has the requisite power to enter into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in order to be a participant in and benefit from the Green Homes Grant Scheme.
- 14.2 Section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a local authority the power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

This will include doing anything that, in its opinion, is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

- 14.3 In addition to this, section 1 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities general power to do anything individuals may do unless it is specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 14.4 Procurement of the partner's delivery agent's contract by Ealing Council on behalf of Harrow and the other Consortium Boroughs will be in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Ealing Council's Contract Procedure Rules as appropriate.
- 14.5 Ealing Council will enter into the contract with the delivery agent and will direct the delivery agent to carry out works on the properties as identified by the Consortium Boroughs.
- 14.6 All the Consortium Boroughs will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding requiring them to certify the works undertaken before any payment is made by Ealing and the MoU will contain indemnities requiring them to comply with the Green Homes Grant Scheme conditions.

## **15. Financial Implications**

- 15.1 The Authority was part of a successful consortium bid to BCIS for Green Homes Funding with London Borough of Ealing as the consortium lead.
- 15.2 Phase 1A will permit Harrow Council to recommend properties for works to meet Government Green Energy targets. The maximum value of works for financial year 2020/21 is £580,793 and must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The works will be paid for directly by Ealing Council therefore there is no financial impact on Harrow Council.
- 15.3 Phase 1B is currently in the submission phase and approval from Cabinet will be requested as appropriate once financial impacts have been quantified.
- 15.4 There will also be no additional staffing costs to the Council as these will be covered entirely by Ealing Council.

## **16. Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 16.1 The contract specification has been clear on the equalities related duties on contractors, given the wide range of needs of Council residents. The procurement exercise has been designed to deliver existing policies and strategies maintaining the current level of equality in service provision.

- 16.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared by Ealing Council specifically for the procurement exercise. This identified no need for a full assessment at this stage because it did not identify any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact. All opportunities to address diversity-particularly vulnerability for all tenants and will be addressed through the contract specification and ensure residents receive the same service regardless of but taking into account specific needs.

## 17. Council Priorities

Please see below how the decision sought delivers the Council's priorities.

### 1. Improving the environment and addressing climate change

The retrofits will bring homes to a comfortable home standard, eliminate damp and mould. Energy efficiency upgrades will save residents money, making homes more affordable to comfortably operate.

### 2. Tackling poverty and inequality /Addressing health and social care inequality

Eliminating fuel poverty for households results in community wealth generation by reducing the overall impact of heating and fuel costs for residents, as well as draughts, reducing negative impacts on health, hospital admissions, and length of stay. There is a direct correlation between fuel poverty and health, as evidenced by the recent COVID-19 outbreak, which was felt most severely by communities known to have higher fuel poverty rates.

### 3. Thriving economy

There is potential for job creation in the Borough bringing skilled job opportunities, as well as apprenticeships for those looking to upskill or move into the green economy.

The consortium lead Borough has liaised closely with the West London Alliance Recovery work, including aligning opportunities with the West London Business skills academies that are soon to be launched.

Due to the pace of delivery required by this grant, as well as the simultaneous publication of other similar grants aimed at other audiences (i.e., able to pay households and commercial), it is expected the sector will need to grow quickly to satisfy demand for energy efficiency retrofits.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

**Statutory Officer: Tasleem Kazmi**

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Statutory Officer: Sarah Inverary**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Statutory Officer: Mohamed Alotia**

Signed on behalf of the Head of Procurement

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Statutory Officer: Paul Walker**

Signed by the Corporate Director

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Statutory Officer: Susan Dixon**

Signed by the Head of Internal Audit

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: NO as it impacts on all Wards**

**EqlA carried out: YES**

**EqlA cleared by: Ealing Council (as they are the lead borough)**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Harrow Contact:** Andrew Campion, Head of Asset Management, tel. 0208 424 1339, [Andrew.Campion@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Campion@harrow.gov.uk)

**Coalition Contact:** Tania Jennings (Ealing Council Lead)

**Background Papers:** None

**Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee - NO**