

<b>Report title:</b> To approve an application submission for the Local Authority Delivery Green Homes Grants (LAD GHG) funding programme.	
<b>Report to:</b> Mark Carroll- Executive Director for Place and Public Health.	
<b>Report author:</b> Aaron Goldie-McSorley, Low Carbon Business Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 17/08/2020	<b>For:</b> Decision
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Aaron Goldie-McSorley, Low Carbon Business Officer & Tom Day, Head of Energy & Low Carbon	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> 'All Essex'	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval for Essex County Council (ECC's) to apply to the LAD GHG grant programme (deadline 01/09/2020).

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree and approve that ECC submit a funding application to the Department for Business, Environment & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) LAD GHG programme for £813,245 to deliver energy efficiency measures for low income homes across Essex.
- 2.2. To approve ECC entering a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with BEIS, if successful, pending legal review of documentation.

## 3. Summary of issue

- 3.1. In 2014 the UK Government introduced a statutory target to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that low income households that cannot afford to heat their homes ("fuel poor households") in England achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 31st December 2030.
- 3.2. Under the £2bn funding announced by the Chancellor on 8th July 2020 to save households money, cut carbon and create green jobs, £500 million has been earmarked for Local Authority delivery to ensure those in low-income households, who may be less likely to take up a demand-led voucher scheme, will be able to benefit from energy efficiency upgrades.
- 3.3. The first phase of funding, launched on 4th August 2020, £200 million is available to Local Authorities in England to upscale existing and new proposals that will deliver home upgrades to low-income, fuel poor households in their local areas.
- 3.4. ECC alongside a consortium of the following Local Authorities (LAs) seek to submit a bid for funding of which ECC is the Lead partner (further Essex LAs may still join the consortium prior to bid submission): Tendring District Council,

Epping Forest District Council, Chelmsford City Council, Braintree District Council.

3.5. The funding will provide up to £10,000 to residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes with measures such as solid wall/cavity/roof/floor insulation, heat pumps, double glazing, heating controls, solar thermal etc. that will improve its energy efficiency.

3.6. ECC's primary aims are to:

3.6.1. Support the low-income residents of Essex to improve their living standards through energy and cost saving measures which have significant health benefits.

3.6.2. Improve the energy intensive housing stock across Essex which in turn consume more energy and therefore contribute to more carbon emissions.

3.6.3. Drive growth of the green economy within Essex to deliver the measures, safeguarding and creating jobs within Essex.

3.7. The funding will deliver 100 measures across Essex as well as pay for project management staff costs over the duration of the project.

3.8. Project staff will maintain and manage the relationship with the supplier (to be procured via Fusion21 framework) to install the measures, ensuring all works are carried out on time and to scope, maintain records required for monthly monitoring and evaluation reporting to BEIS, work with the consortium to identify eligible households.

3.9. All installers are required to be TrustMark and Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited in order to deliver these works. When completing the procurement, we are also stipulating contractors require Trading Standards 'Buy With Confidence' (BWC) registration to deliver the works.

3.10. Project timeline:

Bid submission	Decision by	Project Start date	Project End date
01/09/2020	28/09/2020	01/10/2020	21/03/2021

3.11. This funding helps to deliver the following Strategic Priorities in the Council's Organisational Strategy:

3.11.1. Help create great places to group up, live and work

3.11.2. Enable Inclusive Economic Growth

3.11.3. Help people get the Best Start and Age Well

## 4. Options

4.1. **Option 1 – To agree for ECC to apply for LAD GHG funding**

By submitting an application, we will have the potential to access 100% grant funding to deliver energy efficiency improvements to homes across Essex, driving our public health and climate action goals.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

#### **4.2. Option 2 – Do nothing**

ECC would miss an opportunity to leverage £771,245 grant funding with health benefits, energy, carbon and cost savings for vulnerable Essex residents. We would miss the opportunity to support residents and the local economy through attracting grant funding to Essex residents and local businesses delivering the works.

### **5. Next steps**

Following bid submission notification of bid decision will be received by 28/09/2020

### **6. Issues for consideration**

#### **6.1. Financial implications**

6.1.1. The total cost of this 100% grant funded project is £813,245, of which:

**6.1.1.1.** £739,725 is capital costs (labour, materials, appliances, scaffolding and other direct costs covering the installation measures used to upgrade the property)

**6.1.1.2.** £43,520 is Administration costs for staff managing the project

**6.1.1.3.** £30,000 Ancillary support to cover any costs that might arise when making a home suitable for a measures (e.g. building defects that might need resolved before applying a retrofit solution or removal of a gas boiler or cabinetry installed to accommodate hot water tanks or a heat pump)

6.1.2. Under the terms and conditions of the grant, should the outcomes committed to in the funding bid not be delivered BEIS are within their rights to clawback a proportion of the grant funding

6.1.3. All funding will be paid to ECC in 2 instalments; an upfront 50%, with a further 50% of the Grant being paid within in 10 days following submission of the third monthly report.

### **7. Legal implications**

7.1. There are no state aid implications associated with this application for funding or delivery of the Project

7.2. Legal review of the MOU will be required in due course if ECC are successful in the bid.

## 8. Equality and Diversity implications

8.1. The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

8.2. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

8.3. The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## 9. List of appendices

EqlA

## 10. List of Background papers

None

<b>I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Mark Carroll, Executive Director for Place and Public Health</b>	<b>20/08/2020</b>

### In consultation with:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Councillor Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Climate Action</b>	<b>19/08/2020</b>