

Part A

Report to: Cabinet
Date of meeting: 24th August 2020
Report of: Energy & Renewal Surveyor, Neil Walker
Title: Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme Bid

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ([BEIS is inviting LAs](#)), working with their local partners, to apply for funding to be used to improve the energy efficiency of low income houses. LAs have been asked to come forward with previously developed proposals or new proposals that meet the desired outcomes of the scheme.
- 1.2 The LA Delivery scheme aims to raise the energy efficiency of low-income and low EPC rated homes (those with Band E, F or G) delivering progress towards reducing fuel poverty, the phasing out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating and the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.
- 1.3 Applications will be accepted from the 4th of August to 12 noon on the 1st of September 2020 with award announcement at the end of September for delivery up to March 2021.
- 1.4 This paper is to note WBC's intention to be the lead LA to submit a funding bid to BEIS. As lead LA we will submit a partner bid consisting of Buckinghamshire Council, Dacorum Borough Council and ourselves, supported through our existing partnership arrangement – [Better Housing Better Health](#) (managed by NEF).

2.0 Risks

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (Treat, tolerate, terminate, transfer)	Risk Rating (the combination of severity and likelihood)
Lack of engagement of the other LA's	Risk to under achieving the target numbers	Continued and up to date project management through the procured manager and	Treat	3x2 = 6

		early re-profiling of the budget to support those better performing authorities.		
Delivery of the project within the tight timescales	Bad publicity and reputation within a government department	The existing consortium is well developed in terms of relationships, procedures and experience which should put the project in good stead in comparison to some other LA's whom will be starting from scratch.	Treat	3x2 = 6
Conflicting Opinion of Stakeholders/partners	Inability to reach consensus	Part of the scheme development will include MoU's between the participating partners to set out each of the responsibilities.	Treat	3x2 = 6
Lack of adequate resource to deliver	Will affect effective delivery	Engagement of new resource financed as part of the bid.	Treat	2x4 = 8

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Mayor is asked to approve the principle to be the lead authority and to submit a bid.

3.2 That the Group Head of Community & Environmental Services is to have delegated authority to progress the bid preparation and submission in conjunction with the portfolio holder.

3.3 Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact:

Neil Walker, Energy & Renewal Surveyor

Telephone extension: Extension 8149

Email: neil.walker@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Alan Gough, Group Head of Community & Environmental Services

4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 In July 2020, the [Chancellor announced £2 billion of support](#) through the Green Homes Grant (GHG) to save households money; cut carbon; and create green jobs. The GHG will be 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.
- 4.2 Administered by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), The LAD scheme aims to raise the energy efficiency of low-income and low EPC rated homes (those with Band E, F or G) delivering progress towards reducing fuel poverty, the phasing out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating and the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.
- 4.3 If successful this potential funding will help WBC deliver towards [our own net zero target](#) (previously supported at cabinet) as well as support vulnerable households in our community.
- 4.4 The bid meets one of the projects identified within our published [Sustainability Strategy](#) to obtain external funding to support reduction of domestic emissions (where CO₂ emissions emitted by the domestic sector are responsible for 37% of the boroughs total emissions).
- 4.5 Watford Borough Council is well positioned to deliver such a scheme with our recent relationship with Better Housing Better Health, a consortium of partners working to reduce and prevent the number of people in fuel poverty (thereby improving health and wellbeing). This partnership is coordinated by the National Energy Foundation (NEF).
- 4.6 Our proposed bid includes LA members from 3 authorities:
- Watford Borough Council
 - Buckinghamshire Council
 - Dacorum Borough Council
- 4.7 NEF will co-ordinate the preparation of the bid and have asked us to be the lead LA (a requirement of the funding for an LA to lead any bid). This request is due to our past track record in delivering nearly 10 years of successful similar bids and projects. These schemes have included the award winning Boundary Way project to the more recent Harebreaks insulation projects, which were visited and held up as an exemplary delivery model by government officials (the then part of the Department of Energy & Climate Change - DECC).
- 4.8 If successful the delivery in Watford will be particularly advantageous as the funding timing could be used to replace part of the existing WBC supported funding that we are using for a solid wall insulation scheme. This scheme is just commencing for surveys in the Kingswood area of Watford – see www.watford.gov.uk/kingswood
- 4.9 Around 47% of the Kingswood project area has been modelled to have EPC's that fall within the E,F and G project target (this compares significantly more than the 29% of E, F and G's that make up the national average). This puts the project well within the strategic fit for a successful delivery.

- 4.10 The bid is expected to total £1,200,000 (£1.2 million) split between the 3 LA partners; consisting of capital of £1,030,000 for improvement works to properties and delivery costs totalling £170,000.00.
- 4.11 Part of the delivery cost includes a £20,000 sum towards WBC officer costs as well as the bulk delivery cost contributing towards project management costs by our partners NEF.
- 4.12 Upon notification of a successful bid WBC will put in place all necessary and adequate contracts and agreements between partners (including procurement implications and Data sharing agreements in accordance with WBC policy and BEIS bid guidance).

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

There is no additional capital required for this proposal from local councils and the project has the potential to be cost positive (in terms of including for staff resource to deliver and being able to re-profile existing capital funding we have prior agreed that can be used elsewhere).

5.1.1

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1

5.3 **Equalities**

- 5.3.1 Equality Impact will be part of the scheme upon a successful bid with a focus on the vulnerable groups as the bid dictates.

5.4 **Staffing**

- 5.4.1 Within the existing EH team structure with additional resource costs procured within a successful bid.