

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR
COUNCIL SERVICES

14 December 2015

Report of the Strategic Director Corporate Resources

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD

1. Purpose of the Report

Approval is sought to accept a grant award of £0.325m on behalf of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) to provide energy efficiency home improvements to low income residents with long term health conditions.

2. Information and Analysis

The Council is a member of, and hosts, the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) which comprises all local authorities across the two counties. The LAEP is externally funded and works to reduce fuel poverty and improve domestic energy efficiency for local residents. Established in 1996, the LAEP is a well-respected partnership of all 20 local authorities in the two counties with a successful track record of joint working.

In 2012 the LAEP secured £2.5m from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Local Authority Fund 2012-13 to assist residents in fuel poverty across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. In total 714 households received new heating systems or boilers. The Cabinet Member meeting, Technology and Recycling approved the acceptance of this grant award and the County Council's role as Accountable Body at the meeting of 20 December 2012 (minute number 70/12 refers).

The LAEP is currently delivering the 'Derbyshire Healthy Home Project' across Derbyshire on behalf of the council's Public Health department who currently provide funding for staff costs. The LAEP is also setting up the 'Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription' project which is a similar scheme in Nottinghamshire.

Both projects work with GP practices to identify and assist vulnerable residents with cold-sensitive, long term health conditions who are in fuel

poverty. If they struggle to keep their homes warm in winter the health of these residents is at further risk and they are more likely to be admitted to hospital and incur high costs to the NHS. The projects provide a rapid response service, installing new heating systems and insulation where needed, at no cost to them.

In March 2015 the LAEP successfully secured £0.163m from the DECC Booster Fund to provide free heating and insulation works for up to 200 residents assisted as part of these projects. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Director of Finance for the Council, to accept this funding and act as the Accountable Body.

To ensure the continuity of these projects, Derbyshire County Council, as Treasurer of the LAEP, submitted a bid on behalf of the partnership to National Energy Action's (NEA) Warm and Healthy Homes Fund in July 2015 to secure further funding for heating and insulation works. The bid was successful and secured £0.325m which will be split equally between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and will assist 200 households in fuel poverty between November 2015 and March 2017. The LAEP has matched funded the grant with £0.036m of its own funding, an underspend from DECC's Local Authority Fund 2012-13, referred to above.

The LAEP is seeking approval for Derbyshire County Council to accept and again act as Accountable Body for this grant.

3. Financial Considerations

As LAEP Treasurer, Derbyshire County Council is the Accountable Body for this grant. Derbyshire County Council resources necessary to deliver these schemes will be met using existing budgets.

4. Legal Considerations

The Director of Legal Services will be involved in reviewing the legal documentation in connection with the project.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

6. Background Papers

None

7. Key Decision

NO

8. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision proposed in the report?

NO

9. Officer Recommendation

That approval is given for Derbyshire County Council to support, and act as the Accountable Body, for the grant award of £0.325m from National Energy Action on behalf of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP).

JUDITH GREENHALGH
Strategic Director Corporate Resources