

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

26 OCTOBER 2017

Report of the Strategic Director Commissioning, Communities and Policy

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARDS

(Council Services)

1. Purpose of the Report

Approval is sought to accept grant awards totalling £0.602m on behalf of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) to provide domestic energy efficiency 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 improve domestic energy efficiency and to assist local residents to achieve affordable warmth. 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 securing grant funding.

In 2012 the LAEP secured £2.5m from the then Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Local Authority Fund to assist residents across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. In total 714 households on low incomes received new heating systems or boilers. The Cabinet Member for, 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 Programme' across the county on behalf of Public Health, and supporting the

‘Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription Programme’, a similar scheme being delivered by district councils.

Both projects assist vulnerable residents with long term health conditions who struggle to afford to keep their homes warm in winter. The projects install new central heating systems and insulation in the homes of these residents to reduce the risk of the cold affecting their health, enabling them to live independently for longer in their own homes and reducing costs to the NHS and Adult Social Care.

In 2015 the LAEP successfully bid for £0.488m from the DECC Booster Fund and the National Energy Action’s (NEA) Warm and Healthy Homes Fund and in 2016 a further £0.085m from the latter, to support its two projects. This funding was used to provide free heating and insulation works for 127 properties in Derbyshire and 33 in Nottinghamshire. The Cabinet Member for, Council Services approved the acceptance of this grant award and the County Council’s role as Accountable Body at the meeting of 14 December 2015 (minute number 143/15 refers).

In September 2017 the LAEP bid for two new sources of funding to support its affordable warm projects:

£0.427m has been applied for from the Warm Homes Fund (a National Grid fund) to install gas central heating systems in 140 properties in Derbyshire which currently use coal or electric heating or have no central heating system. The closing date for applications was 8 Sept 2017; successful applicants will be announced and contracts signed in October 2017; delivery has to begin before the end of October 2017 and be completed by the end of March 2019.

£0.174m is being applied for from the NEA Warm and Healthy Homes Fund for installation of gas central heating systems in 58 properties in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The closing date for applications is 27 Sept 2017; successful applicants will be announced and contracts signed in October 2017; delivery has to begin before the end of October 2017 and be completed by end February 2018.

In the light of these tight time frames, the LAEP is seeking approval for Derbyshire County Council to accept and act as Accountable Body for the two new grant funds, in anticipation of the grants being awarded.

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. Social Value Considerations

Acceptance of these grant awards will benefit 198 vulnerable residents, enabling them to keep their homes warm and healthy in winter, assisting them to stay independent in their own homes and reducing the likelihood of additional costs being incurred by the NHS and Adult Care.

6. 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.

7. Key Decision

NO

8. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? **NO**

9. Background Papers

CABCO Report 14 December 2015
Report of the Strategic Director Corporate Resources
ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD

10. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet:

10.1 approves the acceptance of grant awards totalling £0.602m, if approved, on behalf of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) to provide domestic energy efficiency improvements

to residents with low incomes suffering from long term health conditions made worse by the cold.

10.2 agrees to the County Council acting as the Accountable Body in respect of the grant awards if they are approved.

EMMA ALEXANDER
Strategic Director Commissioning, Communities and Policy