
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2021

EGSP.65/21 ACCEPTANCE OF POTENTIAL OFFER FOR SUSTAINABLE WARMTH COMPETITION (LAD PHASE 3 AND HOME UPGRADE GRANTS (HUG))

The Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report regarding the acceptance of grant funding, if offered, from Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Sustainable Warmth Competition and act as the lead authority of a Cumbria Consortium of district councils for the delivery of the grant (GD.72/21).

The Regulatory Services Manager reported that the City Council had applied for £19,955,000 of funding on behalf of the Cumbrian Sustainable Warmth consortium of district councils to address fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and carbon savings and help boost the local economy to retrofit a target of 1,310, mainly private sector homes, with energy efficiency measures, including low carbon heating across Cumbria.

The Panel discussed the application, in response to questions the Home Improvement Agency Team Leader clarified that Carlisle would lead the work as Eden District Council had received funding from a previous round and the application process preferred that the lead had not received previous funding. In addition, other Districts did not have the capacity to deliver, Carlisle had the Home Improvement Agency and had experience from similar previous funding.

The Home Improvement Agency Team Leader explained that there was no risk of the Council overspending, Carlisle would receive a delivery grant of 15% which would cover staff costs. Any funding that was not used would not be clawed back.

She reported that it had been difficult to encourage people to apply for the funding for previous schemes of a similar nature, if any District did not have 100% take up of their grant allocation then work could be undertaken in other areas redistribute funding

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder reminded the Panel that the City Council had an excellent track record in delivering such funding programmes and the Team were confident that that they could deliver this funding to households in need.

The Home Improvement Agency Team Leader clarified for the Panel that low income households were identified as having an annual income under £30,000. The Team had access to a free software package that cross referenced publicly available energy ratings and identified properties which were likely to have a low energy rating, they would then be invited to apply for the funding. The Team encouraged people to apply, if they were not eligible for this scheme the Team could still provide other advice and support to help energy ratings in properties.

The Home Improvement Agency Team Leader advised that tenants in social housing would not be eligible to apply as their landlord would need to apply. In addition, social housing properties tended to have had improvement work and better energy ratings to meet their landlord responsibilities, however, support may be available for those in rural areas. She added that there were other schemes coming forward that would support social housing tenants.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder highlighted the importance of the project in improving the energy ratings in home. The work was a key part of the work the City Council was undertaking to address climate change issues.

The Home Improvement Agency Team Leader summed up by confirming that legal had been involved in the consideration of the draft Memorandum of Understanding, their comments were included in the report.

RESOLVED - That the Panel supported the acceptance of grant funding if offered, from Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Sustainable Warmth Competition as detailed in report GD.72/21 and, recommends to the Executive:

- That any potential offer of the Sustainable Warmth grant funding by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is accepted.
- That the City Council should act as the accountable body for the Grant on behalf of the Cumbrian Consortium.