

Appendix 1 – Background information to Urgent Decision: Green Homes Local Authority Delivery grant funding

Green Homes Grant Scheme

In August 2020, government launched a Green Homes Grant scheme to upgrade homes across England. Under this, £500 million funding was allocated for local authorities to bid for through the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme, designed to:

- Improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, helping reduce fuel poverty
- Help phase out high carbon fossil fuel heating
- Deliver progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.

Successful Worcestershire bid

- Worcestershire authorities completed a joint bid, led by Wychavon DC, to maximise the capacity of the to bid and deliver within the timescales required (delivery deadline of March 31st 2021).
- This bid was successful and has been awarded £1,905,000 for delivery of projects across Worcestershire.
- In consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (including Climate Change), Bromsgrove District Council's element of the bid was for external wall insulation to park home properties and has been allocated £360,000. This will fund insulation of around 55 homes, based on the previous Green Deal Communities scheme, through which 23 park homes received partially funded external insulation.
- There is also capital funding for Energy Performance certificates where required pre and all post installation (up to £21,000 across Worcestershire) and Contingency works (up to £58,150 across Worcestershire).
- Each authority will also receive £7,000 for internal costs of delivery and £2,000 for publicity.
- Payments are staged with 50% of the monies paid over initially.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria below are set by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS):

- Combined household annual income of no more than £30,000 gross, before housing costs and where benefits are counted towards this figure.
- Property Energy Performance Rating of E, F or G.
- Qualifying owner occupiers will receive external wall insulation fully funded up to £10,000.
- Privately rented properties are eligible, but there is a minimum contribution by the landlord of one third of the cost of works, with the average subsidy cost not to exceed £5,000 per property.

Measures

Measures which can be funded were set by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). BDC chose to focus on park home external wall insulation because:

- as the works are primarily external, the risks related to Covid19 are less
- although external wall insulation can be more difficult to apply in winter, as low temperatures and damp conditions can delay setting of render, park homes are smaller, single level properties contained on discrete sites and insulation can therefore be completed more quickly
- a higher than average risk of fuel poverty/vulnerability to cold amongst park home residents:
 - property characteristics
 - many sites off the mains gas network
 - older age group (many sites have a minimum age limit for residents e.g. 50 years old)

Delivery

- Wychavon DC are drafting legal agreements with the other authorities, to enable us to deliver in our areas.
- It is planned for engagement with park home owners e.g. letters and completing eligibility checks is to be managed by BDC's procured energy advice service, YES Energy.
- A fully managed service for external wall insulation and associated works such as Energy Performance Certificates (including surveys, design, preliminaries, installation, evidence for compliance and monitoring and 25 year guarantees) is intended to be delivered through a contract with Surefire Management Services (SMS), under a pre-procured, OJEU compliant framework, using contractors with certification as required by BEIS.
- Wychavon DC and their procured energy advice service Act on Energy are responsible for monitoring and reporting to BEIS in relation to the grant funding.
- Should uptake be poor for any reason, with the agreement of the project group, delivery can be switched to other measures or property types or between districts, in order to maximise delivery before March 31st 2021. Should there be reasonable delays e.g. due to Covid19 or weather, there may also be flexibility in the deadline.
- There will be further opportunities to bid for funding for delivery in 2021-22, in order to assist those who have been unable to benefit from the first phase.