

## LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - 8 JULY 2020

### PART I - DELEGATED

#### 6. HERTS WARMER HOMES (DCES)

##### 1 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the reasons for the closure of the existing Hertfordshire Warmer Homes Scheme and the new proposal for the continuation of the Scheme post July 2020.

##### 2 Details

- 2.1 The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes Scheme is a currently a programme led by Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team and 10 District and Borough Councils within Hertfordshire. The scheme aims to help homeowners and tenants keep warm for less through the delivery of a wide range of heating and insulation energy efficiency measures, these are provided by YES Energy Solutions who work in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council.

- 2.2 The scheme enables eligible residents to access ECO funding to cover or contribute towards the cost of critical home improvements. Part of the ECO scheme allows local authorities to set their own additional vulnerable circumstances to allow more residents access to the ECO subsidies. This is achieved by the authority issuing a statement of intent (SOI). (Three Rivers' Statement of Intent is available on the Council's website at <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/three-rivers-eco-flex-statement-of-intent>). The authority then signs these SOI's which are usually supplied by contractors/installers on the residents behalf. To qualify for the scheme households must be:

1. Low Income = Gross household disposable income (after rent or mortgage has been paid) £20,000 or less.

**AND either OR**

- a) High Energy Costs – Property with at least one of; 100m or less loft insulation, unfilled cavity walls, uninsulated non cavity walls, no working central heating or EPC rating of D or below
- b) Vulnerable to the Cold = a resident of household member with at least one of the following:
  - i) A health condition made worse by the cold
  - ii) Vulnerable to the cold
  - iii) A home owner or those on a private tenancy agreement (or member of the household) is in receipt of long term health or disability benefit. Eligible benefits:
    - Carer's Allowance
    - A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance)
    - Disabled Living Allowance

- Personal Independence Payment

- 2.3 In 2019 a total of 12 insulations and heating and insulation energy efficiency measures were undertaken for vulnerable residents supported by additional funding from the Council totalling £11,157.
- 2.4 In October 2019 Hertfordshire County Council decided that they were unable to continue to progress the scheme from July 2020 and the 10 Hertfordshire authorities have not been able to come together to continue the partnership to deliver the scheme in the required timeframe.
- 2.5 For the scheme to continue from July 2020 for the next two years HCC have been working alongside YES Energy who are the current energy providers working on Hertfordshire Warmer Homes to produce a Service Level Agreement for the continuation of the scheme. This would mean that HCC/Herts Help are no longer involved with the scheme and the involvement would be solely between YES Energy and Three Rivers District Council.
- 2.6 The new scheme will continue running in the same way as the existing scheme but without HCC/Herts Help as filter for calls and referrals. This means that between YES Energy and Three Rivers District we would need to work together to ensure referrals, promotions and signed declarations are completed efficiently.
- 2.7 The Service Level Agreement (SLA) between YES Energy and Three Rivers District will set out the roles of the Council and YES Energy and the level of work and input that is needed from each party. The SLA is currently being reviewed by the Legal Team and the Data Protection Officer.

### **3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 An alternative option would be not to continue with the scheme. This would mean that vulnerable residents will not easily be able to access ECO funding for heating and insulation energy efficiency measures or to access the additional top up funding currently available from the Council.

### **4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The relevant policy is our Strategic Plan:

**Healthier Communities** - We want to support the most vulnerable people in the District

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None specific. There is an annual budget of £19,500 for Energy Efficiency from which the Council provides top ups to the ECO funding that residents are entitled to. The budget is not solely for the Herts Warmer Homes Scheme. In 2019/2020 a total of £11,157.00 was paid as top ups towards 12 installations.

### **6 Staffing Implications**

- 6.1 None specific. The Planning Officer within the Economic and Sustainable Development Team currently covers the administration of the scheme and it is

anticipated that there will be minimal changes to the amount of work currently being undertaken.

## 7 Communications and Website

7.1 The existing web page will be updated should the scheme proceed.

## 8 Equal Opportunities, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

8.1 None specific.

## 9 Legal Implications

9.1 The Service Level Agreement has been approved by the Legal Team and by the Data Protection Officer.

9.2 The Procurement Officer has highlighted that there would be no liability to the Council as we have not written any design specification for the installs. Based on the overall value of the scheme there will be no legal implications to the Council

## 10 Equal Opportunities Implications

10.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	yes
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	no

## 11 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

11.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

11.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Economic & Sustainable Development Service Plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>

It is decided that the scheme should not proceed and some vulnerable residents will not be able to get top up funding to the ECO funding to enable the installation of heating and insulation energy efficiency measures	Unfavourable publicity for the Council	None	Tolerate	Medium
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11.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

<b>Very Likely</b> ----- <b>Likelihood</b> ----- ▼ <b>Remote</b>	<b>Low</b> 4	<b>High</b> 8	<b>Very High</b> 12	<b>Very High</b> 16
	<b>Low</b> 3	<b>Medium</b> 6	<b>High</b> 9	<b>Very High</b> 12
	<b>Low</b> 2	<b>Low</b> 4	<b>Medium</b> 6	<b>High</b> 8
	<b>Low</b> 1	<b>Low</b> 2	<b>Low</b> 3	<b>Low</b> 4
	<b>Impact</b>			
	<b>Low</b> -----▶ <b>Unacceptable</b>			

**Impact Score**

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

1 (Marginal)

**Likelihood Score**

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Remote (≤5%))

11.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

## **12 Recommendation**

- 12.1 That the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee note the contents of this report and approves the continuation of the Herts Warmer Homes Scheme as set out in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of this report.

Report prepared by: Claire May, Head of Planning Policy & Projects and Tori Elliott, Planning Officer

### **Background Papers**

Herts Warmer Homes [https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/have-you-applied-for-the-herts-warmer-homes-scheme?dm\\_i=5ESZ%2C428V%2C1M7J6G%2CE7C7%2C1](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/have-you-applied-for-the-herts-warmer-homes-scheme?dm_i=5ESZ%2C428V%2C1M7J6G%2CE7C7%2C1)

### **APPENDICES**

None