

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 19 JANUARY 2012  
title: WARM HOMES, HEALTHY PEOPLE FUND 2011-2012  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To notify Committee of a successful bid for funding from the Department of Health. The fund is to support local authorities in the winter months to reduce the levels of deaths and morbidity in their local authority that are due to vulnerable people living in cold housing in partnership with their local community.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions – To seek to balance the housing market by matching the supply of affordable homes with identified needs.
- Community Objectives – To meet the identified housing needs in the borough and ensure fair access to services.
- Corporate Priorities – To be a well managed Council.
- Other Considerations - None

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 There is evidence that the annual cost to the NHS due to cold private housing alone is over 850 million.

3.2 The submitted bid looked to tackle the problems of cold housing through the following initiatives available to vulnerable households in receipt of an income related benefit or through referrals from a qualifying agency:

Warm home packs to include electric blanket, shawl, slipper voucher, night light, and flask.

In addition to the packs, radiator reflector panels and internal draft proofing will be offered to be installed by the Council.

3.3 Along with the packs, households will be given energy efficiency advice by trained Age Concern volunteers.

3.4 In addition to the packs, utility bills advice sessions will be offered to ensure vulnerable households are on the best tariff.

3.5 A thermal imaging camera is also to be hired to provide a visual aid to demonstrate heat loss from the home. The bid also included funding for additional staff hours to deliver the scheme. John Barber will work an extra day per week from January to March.

## 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – the amount allocated was £108.251. The full amount of the bid submitted.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Engineering services staff will provide any technical support.
- Political – none.
- Reputation – Ribble Valley has a higher than average older persons population and therefore the initiative is particularly important for Ribble Valley. The award is the second largest in Lancashire.

## 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Be kept informed of the initiative.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 4567