

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 22 MARCH 2012
title: WARM HOMES HEALTHY PEOPLE GRANT
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the success of the Warm Homes Healthy People grant initiative and to gain approval for the commitment of the remaining funding.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions – to meet the identified needs of households in the borough.
- Community Objectives – to make peoples lives safer and healthier.
- Corporate Priorities – housing.
- Other Considerations – none.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 On receipt of the £108,000 from the Department of Health, the warm home packs have been made available to all vulnerable households in receipt of an income related benefit. The scheme has been successfully launched and to date over almost 500 households have had their packs delivered to their home with the provision of energy advice and a further 120 households are on the waiting list. The challenge of home delivery has proved to be very labour intensive. The grant has also allowed for the purchase of a thermal imaging camera, 12 home energy efficiency monitors and thermally insulated blinds at the homeless hostel.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Due to the procurement process used, there is approximately £30,000 remaining of the grant. One of the grant conditions is that the full grant allocation is to be committed before 31 March. Therefore, a second grant application has been submitted to the Department of Health to demonstrate how the remaining allocated grant to Ribble Valley will be spent to avoid having to return any underspend.

3.2 The proposal submitted was continuing along the original grant objectives of the warm homes healthy people fund and to offer a boiler replacement scheme and home safety pack. The boiler replacement scheme will offer households across the borough on income related benefit a 50% contribution towards the cost of the replacement and installation of a boiler. To be eligible the house will have to be within the Council Tax bands A-D and the boiler will either be over 20 years old or irreparable.

3.3 The home safety grant is an initiative to be run in partnership with health visitors for vulnerable households with children under 5. The grant will provide safety gates,

door restrictors, fire safety and checks and smoke detectors. Each pack will cost approximately £200 for the equipment and fitting. To be eligible for the pack, the household will need to be referred by a health visitor.

3.4 The grant scheme will follow the same grant procedures as existing grants and will run throughout the year as the money will be ring fenced for the described schemes only.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – the already allocated Department of Health grant will cover the full cost of the schemes.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – any technical input will be recharged to their grant.
- Political – the scheme continues to support the energy efficiency initiative as laid out in the grant application.
- Reputation – Ribble Valley will be able to assist households who find it difficult to maintain a warm safe home.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Accept the proposed grant initiatives for the commitment of the remaining grant funding. All grant expenditure will be monitored and reported back to the Department of Health.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 4567.