

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 29 NOVEMBER 2012  
title: ALTERATIONS TO BOILER GRANT POLICY  
submitted by: RACHAEL STOTT – HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER  
principal author: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To propose changes to the current boiler replacement scheme to ensure all vulnerable households (over 65 yrs) at risk of living in cold properties can access the grant.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – None.
- Corporate Priorities – Reduce excessive winter deaths.
- Other Considerations – To ensure older people can remain in their own home.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Utilising the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund, the Council approved a scheme to offer grant assistance towards installation, replacement or repair of boilers. The grant was made available to households over 65 years old, in receipt of an income related benefit and offered 50% towards the cost of the work.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 As the scheme has been advertised applications have been received there have been issues with the households finding the remaining 50%. The other problems encountered has been enquiries received from households who are not eligible due to the benefit requirement and they fall just outside meeting the benefit criteria, but are not in a position to be able to afford the works themselves.

## 4 PROPOSAL

4.1 Following confirmation of additional funding from the Department of Health, the proposal is to continue offering the grant to households in receipt of benefit and the grant will cover 100% of the cost of the works up to a value of £2,000 per application. The grant will also be offered to households not in receipt of an income related benefit but they will be means tested and a maximum grant of 50% of the cost of the works up to a maximum value of £1,000 per application would be offered. The means test assessment may require them to make an increased contribution.

## 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – No implications identified.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal - No implications identified.
- Political – Preventing excessive winter deaths is an important challenge.
- Reputation – Assisting vulnerable households in winter.
- Equality and Diversity – All households will be treated fairly.

## 6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 Accept the proposed changes to the boiler replacement grant policy and for it to take immediate effect.

RACHAEL STOTT  
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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

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