

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 9

meeting date: THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2016
 title: LCC ENERGY FUND AND DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE WARMTH IN RIBBLE VALLEY
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: RACHAEL STOTT – HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update Committee on the availability of funding to deliver an affordable warmth programme in the borough for winter 2016/2017.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives –
- Corporate Priorities - Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable households in the borough is a priority of the Council.
- Other Considerations -

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 A bid to Lancashire County Council green energy fund for domestic energy efficient measures across Lancashire was approved in September 2016. This bid will provide £1 million pounds of funding over the next two years for measures to be targeted through an affordable warmth programme, to be delivered in each borough across Lancashire. The funding is to be distributed as set out in Appendix 1 of the report. The allocation will be made on a 60-40% payment split. The final 40% payment will be made dependent on the first 50% of the grant being committed.

3 ISSUES

3.1 LCC have specified that the grant expenditure is subject to an intervention list which sets out the measures that can be included. This list is focused on physical measures of improvement and a copy of the list is set out at Appendix 2. LCC have also set the eligibility criteria for the grant funding which is set out at Appendix 3.

3.2 The final guidance from LCC is due to be released later in October. Therefore, the grant policy will need to reflect the specified intervention and eligibility guidance provided by LCC.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – To best utilise the monies awarded to Ribble Valley Borough Council.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The grants will be delivered in-house and in partnership with the Home Improvement Agency.

- Political – None.
- Reputation – We can offer assistance to households in fuel poverty.
- Equality & Diversity – The scheme will offer support to vulnerable households in fuel poverty.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Approve that a Ribble Valley affordable warmth grant policy will be drafted in accordance with the conditions set out by LCC. Final sign-off to be delegated to the Chief Executive and Strategic Housing Working Group to allow prompt delivery of the scheme.

RACHAEL STOTT
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 3235.

REF: RS/EL/20101618/H&H

APPENDIX 1

	All Households	Fuel Poor Households	Percent Fuel Poor	Percentage of Lancashire's Fuel poor households	Funds divided by number of fuel poor households assuming total fund £500,000 p.a	PAYMENT 1	When 50% of total amount spent can claim 2nd payment. 50% is:	PAYMENT 2
						60% upfront		40%
Burnley	38195	5147	13.5	9.3	£46,613	£27,968	£23,306	£18,645
Chorley	45691	3968	8.7	7.2	£35,936	£21,561	£17,968	£14,374
Fylde	35470	3115	8.8	5.6	£28,210	£16,926	£14,105	£11,284
Hyndburn	34927	4544	13.0	8.2	£41,152	£24,691	£20,576	£16,461
Lancaster	58846	6970	11.8	12.6	£63,123	£37,874	£31,561	£25,249
Pendle	37985	5324	14.0	9.6	£48,216	£28,930	£24,108	£19,286
Preston	58542	7276	12.4	13.2	£65,894	£39,536	£32,947	£26,358
Ribble Valley	24481	2830	11.6	5.1	£25,629	£15,378	£12,815	£10,252
Rosendale	29549	3284	11.1	5.9	£29,741	£17,845	£14,870	£11,896
South Ribble	46904	3659	7.8	6.6	£33,137	£19,882	£16,569	£13,255
West Lancashire	46166	4607	10.0	8.3	£41,723	£25,034	£20,861	£16,689
Wyre	48092	4486	9.3	8.1	£40,627	£24,376	£20,313	£16,251
	504,848	55,210		100	£500,000.00	£300,000	£250,000.0	£200,000.00

DRAFT Interventions list

- Servicing, repairs and replacement boilers and heating systems and associated works, including controls
- Repairs to and new radiators and radiator reflectors
- Gas fire services and repairs
- draught proofing
- Standard loft and cavity wall insulation
- Interventions for 'hard to treat' cavities and solid walls such as non-standard insulation solutions and external or internal wall insulation.
- Glazing improvements

Advice can be provided if it relates directly to the physical measure being provided to the same household. E.g. advice on thermostatic controls where a new boiler has been fitted.

DRAFT Eligibility Criteria

Households will be eligible for funding if they meet at least one of the following health vulnerabilities:

- people with cardiovascular conditions
- people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with mental health conditions
- people with disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (from new-born to school age)
- pregnant women

Additionally the NICE guidance highlights that living in a cold home may have a greater effect on people who have to spend longer than an average amount of time at home. This could include those with chronic health conditions, including terminal illnesses.

AND Issues of affordability / low income are present**Confirmed by:**

- Someone being in receipt of means tested benefits

Or

- the CSE fuel poverty calculator being completed – must be completed where a single property is receiving more than £1,000

Or

- A 'declaration' by the Local Authority or health / social care professional that affordability issues are present.

Confirmation of what the health and affordability need is should be recorded in the monitoring returns, any evidence should be retained locally.

Districts will need to manage demand to direct the resource at those most in need. Districts may choose not to open up all the health vulnerability categories to self-referrals, instead restricting interventions for some groups to referrals from social care, and health partners or where their own service has identified a health and affordability vulnerability.