

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICE	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	25 MAY 2023	5
<b>AFFORDABLE WARMTH GRANT ALLOCATION 2023/24</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

Full details regarding the Affordable Warmth scheme and the grant allocation from Lancashire County Council for 2022/23 were reported to the Environment, Health and Housing Committee and the Finance and Democracy Committee in November 2022. The scheme provides capital funding for home energy improvement measures for vulnerable residents where an affordability issue has also been identified. The funding aims to reduce the levels of death and illness over the winter months and to improve people's wellbeing. Funding for the scheme is by means of a grant allocation from Lancashire County Council (LCC).

This report details the allocation to Fylde Council for 2023/24 and requests a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme (Affordable Warmth Grant) for 2023/24 in the sum of £29,928 met from the LCC grant allocation for 2023/24.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### The Committee is recommended:

1. To approve a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2023/24 for the Affordable Warmth Grant scheme in the sum of £29,928 to be met from grant funding received from Lancashire County Council for Affordable Warmth Initiatives.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

1. [10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – Affordable Warmth Scheme – Environment Health and Housing Committee](#)
2. [23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 – Affordable Warmth Scheme – Finance and Democracy](#)
3. [15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Affordable Warmth Grant – Environment Health and Housing](#)
4. [21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 – Affordable Warmth Grant – Finance and Democracy](#)

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

## Report

1. The Affordable Warmth Scheme aims to reduce levels of death and illness over the winter months and to improve people's wellbeing as a consequence. It is also expected to lead to a reduction in hospital admissions and in demand for health and social care services.
2. The scheme is fully funded by Lancashire County Council without the need of Fylde Council to provide any match funding or financial contributions.
3. The eligibility criteria for access to the grant scheme have been determined by Lancashire County Council. Having a low level of income, living in a thermally inefficient home, having higher heating needs, and high fuel costs can all increase the risks of living in a cold home. The funding is aimed at the most vulnerable to harm from cold or damp homes. This could include a wide range of individuals at serious risk of experiencing poor health and wellbeing due to living in a cold home. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance on ['Excess winter deaths and morbidity and the health risks associated with cold homes'](#), identifies a range of groups who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.
4. Means-testing will be carried out by Fylde Council before referrals are made in accordance with the guidance. This will ensure that vulnerable groups, those on low incomes and properties with an EPC rating of D or below receives the funding.
5. Fylde Council will be required to report monthly to LCC on the costs and types of measures which have been installed using the grant funding.
6. The scheme is not tenure specific however private rented properties would be expected to firstly meet their obligations under the Housing Act 2004 in relation to heating and insulation without grant assistance.
7. Social housing would also be expected to meet this obligation, interventions/contributions from housing associations/other partners should be sought in the first instance. In addition, contributions will be asked for from the housing provider prior to the approval of any affordable warmth funding. Therefore, it is expected that the majority of funding will be directed towards owner occupied properties.
8. The housing team has been delivering the grants since November 2022. A total of 54 applications have been received to date. Three of these applications have been cancelled due to clients wishing to have an alternative product, no response within the required timescale and property sold. The table below summarises the type of works that the affordable warmth grant is delivering.
9. For 2023/24 Fylde Council have been allocated a further £29,928 of funding from LCC to continue the Affordable Warmth Scheme to assist vulnerable residents in Fylde.

Completed since Nov 2022	Ongoing
3 Boiler Repairs	14 Boiler Repairs
1 Boiler Replacement	1 Boiler replacement
7 Double Glazing	3 Double Glazing
2 Heating Systems repaired	3 Heating System Repairs
	9 Radiators replacements
	1 Emergency heating
	7 Loft insulation

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report requests approval to a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2023/24 for the Affordable Warmth scheme in the sum of £29,928 to be met in full by a grant from Lancashire County Council.
Legal	None arising directly from this report
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	Improving the energy efficiency of dwellings will contribute to sustainable communities and improve the environment
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Cheryl Bennett	Email <a href="mailto:Cheryl.bennett@fylde.gov.uk">Cheryl.bennett@fylde.gov.uk</a> & Tel 01253 658591	15/5/2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
ECO4 Guidance: Local Authority Administration	June 2022	<a href="https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/eco4-guidance-local-authority-administration">https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/eco4-guidance-local-authority-administration</a>
Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) Guidance: Delivery	October 2022	<a href="#">Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) Guidance: Delivery   Ofgem</a>