

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HOUSING	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	15 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022	6
<b>AFFORDABLE WARMTH GRANT</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

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

### SUMMARY

This report provides details of an allocation of £59,856 by Lancashire County Council to Fylde Borough Council for the delivery of an Affordable Warmth Scheme during 2022/23. The scheme is to provide capital measures for home energy improvements to vulnerable residents where an affordability issue has also been identified.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider the proposal and approve the affordable warmth scheme described in this report.
2. Recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme, 'Affordable Warmth Grant 22/23' for £59,856 to be spent in 2022/23 to be met from grant funding received from Lancashire County Council for Affordable Warmth Initiatives.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

1. Report provided to Environment, Health and Housing committee on the 10/1/2017

[CMIS > Meetings Calendar](#)

### 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	

## BACKGROUND

1. On the 14th of July 2022 Lancashire County Council (LCC) gave approval for the allocation of £1,000,000 to local authorities over 2022/23 to help residents across Lancashire to live in warmer homes, as part of its efforts to support residents impacted by the cost of living crisis. The funding is to assist residents on low incomes and those who are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.
2. LCC have split this funding between the district authorities based on the development of eligibility criteria, together with the current guidance from the department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy BEIS on identifying fuel poor households and those on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Flexible Eligibility. Appendix 1 contains the funding application that was submitted.
3. Table 1 contains the percentage of fuel poor households for 2022 within each authority. Fylde Councils allocation for 2022/23 is £59,856 and the funding must be allocated to capital projects within residential dwellings only.

**Table 1**

<b>Fuel Poor Households by Administrative Area 2020</b>				
Area	Number of households	Number of households in fuel poverty	% of Lancashire's Fuel Poor Households	Allocations £
<b>Lancashire</b>	<b>532,268</b>	<b>72,491</b>		
Burnley	40,274	6,396	8.82	88,232
Chorley	48,185	5,567	7.68	76,796
<b>Fylde</b>	<b>37,327</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>5.99</b>	<b>59,856</b>
Hyndburn	36,824	5,539	7.64	76,409
Lancaster	62,096	9,382	12.94	129,423
Pendle	40,046	6,614	9.12	91,239
Preston	61,662	9,182	12.67	126,664
Ribble Valley	25,879	2,995	4.13	41,315
Rosendale	31,103	4,537	6.26	62,587
South Ribble	49,477	5,211	7.19	71,885
West Lancashire	48,662	6,357	8.77	87,694
Wyre	50,733	6,372	8.80	87,901
				1,000,000

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2022>

4. Affordable Warmth Grant Funding was last received in 2017. Between March 2015 to March 2017, and the Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO) was extended until December 2018. Energy Company Obligations (ECO) scheme provided funding for such measures direct from Energy Companies via CHiL – Cosy Homes in Lancashire. Affordable Warmth Grant is paid based on fuel poverty tables at the end of this report.
5. Since this period ECO3 funding has funded similar interventions through CHiL.

## INTERVENTIONS

6. The funding aims to reduce levels of death and illness over the winter months and to improve people's wellbeing; as a consequence, we also hope to see a reduction in hospital admissions and in demand for health and social care services.
7. Fylde sent a proposal to Lancashire County Council for approval of the AFW Grant on the 7th October 2022 outlining our intended usage of the funding (attached document 2) this was approved with all the interventions fitting the grant and likely to be effective.
  - Servicing and repairs, replacement boilers and heating systems and associated works, including controls and unsafe heating systems
  - Repairs to new radiators and radiator reflectors
  - Removal of failed cavity wall insulation and ventilation measures
  - Loft insulation
  - Failed Glazing improvements
  - Emergency heating and dehumidifier measures
  - Portable heaters for use whilst heating systems are repaired
  - Advice on fuel poverty, how to reduce costs through fuel switching, income maximisation, managing fuel bills & debts, warm home checks
  - Additional and targeted work with landlords to improve properties
  - Energy top-up vouchers/fuel cards
  - Carbon Monoxide Monitors

## ELIGIBILITY

8. Lancashire County Council have set the eligibility criteria for access to the grant scheme. Being on a low income, living in thermal 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 a cold home.
9. The funding is aimed at the most vulnerable to harm from cold or damp homes. This could include a wide range of individuals who either are, or are at serious risk of, experiencing poor health and wellbeing due to 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'](#), it identifies a number of groups to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

### Vulnerabilities:

- people with a diagnosed cardiovascular condition
- people with a diagnosed respiratory condition (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with diagnosed mental health conditions
- people with diagnosed disabilities
- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (up to the age of 5)
- pregnant women
- people who are terminally ill
- people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)
- people who have attended hospital due to a fall

The following vulnerable groups will be considered on referral from a professional organisation

- people who move in and out of homelessness
- people with addictions
- Recent immigrants and refugees.

Households will be eligible for funding if they meet at least one of the following vulnerabilities and have a low income.

#### Low income

- Someone being in receipt of means tested benefits
- Have a total household income not in excess of £31,000<sup>1</sup>
- A 'declaration' by the Local Authority or health / social care professional that affordability issues are present.

#### **DELIVERY AND COST OF FINANCING THE SCHEME**

10. The scheme is fully funded by Lancashire County Council without the need of Fylde Council to provide any match funding or financial contributions.
11. Fylde Council will be required to administer the scheme, this will be undertaken within the existing resources of the Housing Services section.
12. Means testing will be carried out by Fylde Council before referrals are made in, accordance with BEIS to this will ensure that vulnerable groups, those on low incomes and properties with an EPC rating of D or below receives the funding.
13. Fylde council will be required to report monthly on the costs and types of measures which have been installed to Lancashire County Council.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Funding will be paid to Fylde Council in advance. This process is already underway, the aim of this is for Fylde to be offering funding as soon as it becomes available and upon committee approval.
17. The grant allocated for 2022/23 is expected that the majority of the funding will be spent this winter and before the end of March 2022. It may be necessary to reconcile spend / committed at the end of March. There is the possibility of claw back of unspent and uncommitted funding at the end of March.

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

<sup>1</sup> This is inline with the income criteria set for ECO4 Flexible Eligibility in the Statement of Intent template:  
<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/eco4-guidance-local-authority-administration>

Finance	<p>This report summarises the Lancashire County Council Affordable warmth scheme and requests that, following consideration of the initiative, the Finance and Democracy committee approve a new fully funded capital scheme in the sum of £59,856 in 2022/23 fully funded by a grant from Lancashire County Council in the same sum and to authorise the scheme expenditure as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Fylde Council would be required to administer the scheme from existing resources within the housing services section.</p>
Legal	Enabling and facilitating the improvement of the energy efficiency of dwellings in the council area is a requirement of The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995
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	31/10/2022

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>

## Appendices

Appendix 1 - Interventions submitted to LCC for Approval