

Cabinet Portfolio Holder Script – 2nd February 2021
Cllr Nick Mannion – PH for Environment and Regeneration
Additional recommendations from Cabinet to Full Council

With regard to item 8 [on the Cabinet agenda], it has come to our attention that additional funding is likely to be made available to support the council.

The first relates to our carbon neutral objectives through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in 2021/22.

We have been notified of a grant award of £3.5m to enable the delivery of:

- Solar panels across selected 16 buildings to generate and supply renewable electricity for our leisure centres
- A renewable heat pump heating system at one of our offices
- An upgrade of lighting systems to LED across 14 of our most energy intensive buildings
- And a range of energy conservation measures like heating and lighting controls across various estate buildings

We anticipate these measure will reduce our carbon footprint by circa 350 tonnes of Co2 per annum – almost 5% of the energy efficiency needed by 2025.

To formally accept this funding I would like to propose an additional recommendation to item 8.

Recommendation:

Recommend to Full Council the approval of an additional Supplementary Capital Estimate of up to £3,500,000 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to further our carbon neutrality objectives.

In December 2020 Cheshire East submitted a consortia bids to The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for Green Homes Grant, Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 1B to apply for a share of £124million funding to be used to improve the energy efficiency of low income houses in their area.

The bid for GHG LAD P1B was for £1,523,750, to be distributed as follows:

Partner	Tenure	Number of properties Improved	Grant Funding (£)
Cheshire East	Homeowners	30	£517,500
	Private Rented	30	
Guinness Partnership	Social Rented	79	£454,250
Peaks & Plains Housing Trust	Social Rented	51	£293,250
Cheshire West & Chester	Homeowners	20	£258,750
	Private Rented	5	

There is no requirement for match funding from Cheshire East Council. A condition of the grant is that social and private landlords must contribute a minimum of 33% of the cost of works to their properties. The Guinness Partnership and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust have confirmed that they will provide the match funding for works to their housing stock. Contributions will be secured from all participating private landlords as part of the administration of the scheme.

On 27th January 2021, Cheshire East was advised that the bid had been successful. There is a requirement for Cheshire East Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BEIS (BEIS MoU) and will be the accountable body. The partners will all be required to enter into a further Memorandum of Understanding that reflects the BEIS MoU to receive funds from Cheshire East Council. There is a requirement to accept and sign all documentation by 19th February 2021 or the offer will be withdrawn.

To formally accept this funding I would like to propose an additional recommendation to item 8.

Recommendation:

Recommend to Full Council the approval of an additional Supplementary Capital Estimate in relation to £1,523,750 from The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for Green Homes Grant, Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 1B (GHG LAD P1B).