

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration held at 1.00 pm on Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Present: Councillor J O'Boyle
Members: (Cabinet Member)

Councillor P Male (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Other Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee)

Employees:

S Bennett, Law and Governance
M Dillow, Climate Change and Sustainability
G Holmes, Law and Governance
E Kirby, Law and Governance
B Willers, Climate Change and Sustainability

Public Business

15. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

16. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July, 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

17. Green Homes Grant LAD Scheme Funding

The Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration considered a report of the Director of Business, Investment and Culture which indicated that Coventry City Council (CCC) has secured £530,000 funding as part of BEIS' (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) Green Homes Grant (GHG) Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Scheme.

The Scheme aims to raise the energy efficiency rating of low income and low EPC rated households (those rated at EPC Band E, F or G), allowing the Council to support some of the most vulnerable residents in the City. CCC will work with our existing Affordable Warmth delivery partner, Act on Energy (AOE), to ensure all grant funding is spent by the end of this financial year (March 2021). AOE are a local energy conservation charity that have been procured by CCC to deliver the existing 'Keeping Coventry Warm' scheme, including operating an advice line for residents, and ensuring delivery of physical interventions through our existing funding streams.

The LAD Scheme will be used to support at least an additional 46 low-income households within the City with £10,000 grants towards the cost of energy efficiency measures, including but not limited to, external wall insulation (EWI), cavity wall insulation (CWI), roof insulation and heat pumps. This scheme will complement the existing 'Keeping Coventry Warm' scheme that has been operating in Coventry for several years, by bringing in an additional £530,000 of funding to support residents under a slightly different eligibility criteria.

This funding is essential to support some of the most vulnerable residents in the City's community to improve the energy efficiency of their home, make their homes warmer and reduce the levels of fuel poverty across the City. This could in turn lead to:

- 1.Reduction in health-related morbidity and mortality associated with living in cold homes.
- 2.Reduced demand for health and care services
- 3.Improved energy efficiency for the houses supported, reducing their energy bills and carbon footprint.

In accordance with the Constitution, Councillor N Akhtar, Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee attended the meeting for this item and agreed the need for urgency so that call-in arrangements would not apply. The reason for urgency was that the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Scheme was made available to Councils with the capacity to deliver between October 2020 - March 2021. As a result, the timescales for delivery are already tight and further delay to the acceptance of the funding will reduce the time to deliver further.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration:-

- 1) Approves the acceptance and acts as accountable body for the grant funding from BEIS totalling £530,000 to deliver the Green Homes Grant LAD Scheme.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director of Business, Investment and Culture and the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to negotiate final terms and approve entry into:
 - a) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Coventry City Council.
- 3) That following completion of the actions set out in Recommendation 2 above, delegates authority to the Director of Business, Investment & Culture to manage and administer the Grant Funding Agreement with BEIS and the agreements with the Council's delivery partner (Act On Energy).

18. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding items of business.

19. **Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business**

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 1.15 pm)