

## Record of Urgent Executive Decision(s)

### 1. Subject of decision

Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery (LAD2) Funding Bid – grant acceptance and appointment of delivery partner

### 2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Councillor Carl Johnson, Deputy Mayor

### 3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

N/A

### 4. Executive summary

In July 2019 Council declared a Climate Emergency and set challenging targets for carbon reduction. Since then the Authority has developed a Climate Emergency Action Plan which sets out pathways towards carbon neutrality and a number of core principles and supporting actions to achieve this, including improving energy efficiency of existing homes, increasing supply of renewable energy and decarbonising the heat supply to homes.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Investment Programme Board requested that the Directors of Regeneration and Economic Development and Environment, Housing and Leisure submit a bid for £1.2 million to the North East Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub (The Hub) for the funding of further measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the borough. The Hub had secured £51.95m provided by Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. This funding is an extension of the Green Homes Grant LAD1b which the Authority had already been successful in securing and which is currently being used to deliver improvements both in Authority owned and private housing stock in the borough.

Unlike LAD1b the bidding processes and the subsequent administration and monitoring will be managed via the Hub. The funding will continue to support the installation of qualifying measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes in North Tyneside, increase the supply of renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions and support the Authority's Climate Emergency response.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Authority was notified that this bid had been successful and an award of £1,154,277 would be made. The award however is conditional on the Authority returning associated paperwork including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Having initially indicated that this must have been completed by May 31<sup>st</sup> the Hub has now agreed that the completion of the MOU and associated paperwork should be concluded as soon as possible to take account of necessary governance requirements. However, if matters are not concluded in a timely manner then the grant offer may be withdrawn.

The Authority does not currently have a delivery partner but is a member of Fusion 21 which is a national Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) compliant framework. A specification has been submitted to the framework which allows the Authority to make a direct appointment of a contractor utilising the existing procurement process established by the framework.

Following approval by Investment Programme Board on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 this report requests that delegated authority be provided to the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to sign the MOU on behalf of the Authority, to accept the grant award of £1,154,277 and for approval to proceed with the appointment of a contractor utilising the provisions of the Fusion 21 framework.

## **5. Alternative Options considered**

The Deputy Mayor may not approve the recommendations, refuse the award of grant and the appointment of Eon Energy Solutions.

## **6. Decision(s)**

The Deputy Mayor approved the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report to enter an MOU to accept the grant award of £1,154,277 and provide authority to appoint Eon Energy Solutions as the delivery partner for this programme.

## **7. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

By accepting the grant and appointing an appropriate contractor, the Authority can progress towards its declared Climate Emergency carbon reduction targets. In addition, at least 111 low income and vulnerable households will be assisted in improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

## **8. Date Decision Made**

6 July 2021

## 9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

\*no – please see below

## 10. Date of Publication

6 July 2021

## 11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

6 July 2021

\*Note – this is an Urgent Decision, as agreed by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and not subject to call-in, as agreed by the Chair of Council.

The reason for urgency is as follows:

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Investment Programme Board requested that the Heads of Regeneration and Economic Development and Environment, Housing and Leisure submit a bid for £1.2 million to the North East Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub (The Hub) for the funding of further measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the borough. The Hub had secured £51.95m provided by Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. This funding is an extension of the Green Homes Grant LAD1b which the Authority had already been successful in securing and which is currently being used to deliver improvements both in Authority owned and private housing stock in the borough.

The funding will continue to support the installation of qualifying measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes in North Tyneside, reduce carbon emissions and support the Authority's Climate Emergency response.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Authority was notified that this bid had been successful and an award of £1,154,277 will be made. This award is conditional on the Authority returning associated paperwork including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was subsequently provided. Having initially indicated that this must have been completed by May 31<sup>st</sup> the Hub have now agreed that the completion should be concluded as soon as possible to take account of necessary governance. However, if matters are not concluded in a timely manner then the grant offer may be withdrawn.