

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
5 November 2013

Subject: WARM, HEALTHY HOMES

All Wards
Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health: Councillor Mrs S Shepherd

1.0 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to reallocating the funding currently within the One-Off Fund from Home Energy Conservation to Warm, Healthy Homes.
- 1.2 Following settlement of final accounts the balance in the reserve allocated to home energy conservation now stands at £92,000.

2.0 BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Recent research has identified an increase in the number of households living in fuel poverty (in some parishes in Hambleton over 30% of people are in fuel poverty) and an increase in hospital admissions due to illnesses caused by being cold (up by 15% in some practices).
- 2.2 In order to help address these issues, a multi-agency group including public health and the Clinical Commissioning Group, has been set up to focus on how those at risk can be supported to live in good health in their own homes for as long as possible.
- 2.3 This Council has secured 10 days "free" consultancy support from National Energy Action as part of a hosting agreement. This is being used to develop a Warm Healthy Homes Action Plan which has the backing of North Yorkshire County Council's Public Health Team, the Adult and Community Service and Children's Services, as well as the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 2.4 The Warm Healthy Homes Action Plan has identified a number of gaps in provision for Hambleton residents including holistic healthy homes checks; a crisis fund; heating installation/repair; damp issues, and barriers to improvement such as asbestos, loft clearance, stone walls, no gas areas.
- 2.5 This multi-agency group is led by this Council's Community Leisure Manager as part of the Council's work on public health.

3.0 WARM, HEALTHY HOMES PROJECT:

- 3.1 To help address some of the gaps identified in the Action Plan a Warm Healthy Homes fund could provide invaluable support to vulnerable people living in cold damp homes.
- 3.2 The fund would be managed by this Council but delivered by other agencies such as the local Home Improvement Agency (Vale and Dale) and the Yorkshire Energy Partnership who have the expertise to determine the needs and eligibility of those asking for support.

The fund would work on a referral basis for private sector properties only within set eligibility parameters as follows:-

Step 1: to identify and use all other funding that a resident is eligible for (in partnership with the Yorkshire Energy Partnership).

Step 2: Hambleton District Council funding to be only used to top-up extra costs over and above other funding levels; suggested parameters:-

- Top-up cost in the order of £150-£400 per measure;
- In crisis cases, cover full cost if resident is not eligible for ECO-funded measures up to a maximum sum per home of £2,500;
- Hambleton District Council to authorise expenditure following referral from Vale and Dale (all payments to be made directly to Vale and Dale and not the individual).

4.0 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 This report considers the re-allocation of existing Home Energy Conservation funds to set up a Warm Healthy Homes project that would help those most vulnerable to live at home healthily as long as possible, it does not commit the Council to any new spending.

4.2 It is expected that the spend be up to 50% of the budget in 2013/14, with the remainder to be spent in 2014/15.

5.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

5.1 This is a key part of the Council's improving health priority.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

6.1 There are no significant risks in pursuing this action.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 All home improvement works will be delivered through Vale and Dale as a recognised Improvement Agency in Hambleton so that all work is guaranteed and meets all legal requirements.

8.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:

8.1 This project will support those that are most vulnerable in the community including those over 75, disabled people, under 5's and those on a low income.

9.0 RECOMMENDATION:

9.1 It is recommended that the remaining funds within the Home Energy Conservation budget are allocated to the Warm, Healthy Homes project.

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Background papers:	None
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