

HEALTH & HOUSING POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 8 November 2013

This meeting was held as a virtual one with comments received via email from Mr A Dhillon, Mr Pepler, Mrs Pope, Wendy Matthews and Mrs Simmonds.

24. GREEN DEAL COMMUNITIES APPLICATION

The PAG received a report explaining that following an invitation from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to apply for funds to help drive Green Deal energy efficiencies, the Council on behalf of the 15 authorities that form the Green Deal Together partnership together with the National Energy Foundation (NEF) had submitted a £2M bid. Applications had to be submitted between September and 31 December 2013 or until the £20m of funding available had been exhausted, whichever was the sooner, and the Management Team had agreed to a bid being submitted subject to the Cabinet agreeing to accept any award made.

Members of the PAG were asked to comment, via email, on a proposal that in the event of the bid being successful the Council should become responsible for leading the project, overseeing/monitoring expenditure and auditing its delivery.

All the costs associated with the delivery of the project had been included in the bid and if the bid were successful then £200k would be allocated to project management with the balance for capital works. The project would help to raise the profile of the Green Deal in South Bucks and a sum of £40k would be allocated to the Council for funding the setting up costs. The report went on to explain how the funding would be administered through a partnership agreement and how the project would be delivered across the partnership areas by NEF

Whilst the proposal was supported in principle a number of comments were received as a result of which further information was provided via email as follows:

- As the Council did not have the capacity the intention was for NEF to deliver the marketing, project management and scheme administration. The £40k would cover the costs the Council would incur in providing advice and support;
- The names of the other local authorities in the scheme;
- How the scheme was targeted towards properties which are the hardest to treat;
- How opportunities for local traders to deliver Green Deal opportunities would be developed;
- The two proposals to target incentives to encourage take up;
- How the scheme would deliver improvements to 581 dwellings across the partnership authorities; and
- How NEF would project manage and the arrangements for monitoring/auditing compliance.

Having considered the comments of the PAG the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED to RECOMMEND** to the Cabinet that in the event of the bid to the DECC being successful the Council should become responsible for leading the project.