

Declarations of Interest

Any Member attending the meeting is reminded of the requirement to declare if he/she has a personal interest in any item of business, as defined in the Code of Conduct. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code the Member should also withdraw from the meeting.

A G E N D A

- | | (Pages) |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Apologies for absence | |
| 2. Minutes | |
| To receive the minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 8 December 2015. | (1 - 2) |
| 3. Reports from Members | |
| To receive any reports from the Chairman or PAG Members. | |
| 4. Current Issues | |
| The Portfolio Holder and Head of Service to update Members on Part 1 current issues relating to the PAG and to receive feedback from Members (if any). | |
| 5. DECC Communities Fund Project | |
| To consider report of the Interim Director of Services. | (3 - 6) |
| <i>Appendix 1</i> | (7 - 16) |
| 6. Reports Likely to Lead to Portfolio Holder making a Decision in Accordance with the Scheme of Delegations to Cabinet Members | |
| 7. Clean for the Queen | |
| To receive an oral presentation on the Clean for the Queen initiative. | |
| 8. Reports Likely to Lead the Portfolio Holder making a Recommendation to Cabinet | |
| 9. Any other business | |
| Any other business which the Portfolio Holder considers is urgent. | |
| 10. Exempt Information | |
| “That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 following item of business is not for publication to the press or public on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.” | |
| (para 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | |
| 11. Current Issues (Part II) | |
| The Portfolio Holder and Head of Service to update Members on Part II current issues relating to the PAG and to receive feedback from Members (if any). | |

The next meeting is due to take place on 7 June 2016

This page is intentionally left blank

ENVIRONMENT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 8 December 2015

Present: Mrs Sullivan (Chairman)
Mr Bradford, Mr Harding, Mr Read and Mr D Smith

Also Present: Mr Bagge

Apologies for absence: Miss Hazell

1. JWC UPDATE PRESENTATION

The PAG received a presentation on the Joint Waste Committee, detailing the work of the JWC in delivering its aims and objectives throughout the county

The PAG noted that the budget used to deliver the actions is a small percentage of the Joint Waste budget - some of this resulting from accumulated underspends. Additional funding of £838,600, which was received from the DCLG under the Recycling Rewards Scheme, will allow 12 of the Actions to be wholly or partially delivered. This will also facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive waste compositional analysis project, with the aim that the data produced would drive communication in order to influence the actions of residents, which the PAG viewed as a valuable project. The PAG further noted that the funding is not ring-fenced and can be used for other priorities and within individual authorities if all authorities are in agreement.

The presentation emphasised the remaining action points as including: a joint fly-tip campaign; jointly-funded anti-litter campaign; and development of options appraisal for a trade waste service.

Additionally, the PAG noted point 25 on the hand-out, which was particularly relevant to the PAG as South Bucks District Council are due to be the test authority for working with the third party sector to reuse more bulky waste.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 15 September were received.

3. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

No reports from members received.

4. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ENERGY STRATEGY

The PAG received a report on the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy, the key aims being local energy generation, retention of money in the local economy and reduced cost of energy.

The development of an energy strategy for the County started in early 2014 with the production of a Prospectus. The Prospectus made the case for Buckinghamshire using a novel approach to strategy development based on the benefits that energy generation projects can bring, irrespective of the technology used. It is based on the premise that the people of Buckinghamshire, who want to see these benefits come to their community, will increasingly influence energy generation schemes. It focusses on opportunities for community owned energy generation projects, and on overcoming barriers to the implementation of energy schemes.

The Strategy sets out a variety of initiatives, including aims to increase the amount of home-grown energy generation which supports The Community Energy Strategy published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2014.

The four key themes of the Strategy are:

- Increasing local energy generation
- Improving the efficiency of buildings
- Ensuring communities influence and benefit from projects
- Growing the local economy

Whilst the PAG supported the concept of the Strategy members were concerned that some parts were in need of updating. Members also felt that the Council should not over-commit resources into energy production in view of the recent and future reductions in the level of subsidy for electricity production. Members also felt that the current local distribution infrastructure may not be suitable for feeding electricity back to the grid.

Members understood the need to work together with communities and welcomed the commitment in the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy to promote Energy Efficiency and hoped the strategy would support an improvement in the Energy Infrastructure which had prevented local opportunities to supply power to the grid.

The Portfolio Holder, after considering the PAG's comments

RESOLVED the endorsement of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy and its adoption.

5. PORTFOLIO BUDGETS

The PAG considered a report seeking approval for the draft revenue budget, and fees and charges schedule for the 2016/17 Environment Portfolio.

The report outlined the context of the overall financial position facing the Council for the coming year, and reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the 11th November recommended a number of saving options, none of which have yet been built into draft budgets.

The budgets have been prepared in accordance with the following inflation assumptions:

- Salaries inflation from April 2016 of 1%
- Contracts inflation 1.9% (unless different rate specified within contract)
- Business rates 1.9%
- Gas 1.8%, Electricity 9% and Water 1.9%
- Insurance 3.5% - as Insurance Premium Tax has gone up from 6% to 9.5%.
- Other expenditure heads 0%
- Income 0%.

In considering the report, the PAG particularly noted the decrease from the current year's approved budget to the 2016/2017 draft budget of £62,000, for the reasons set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED to RECOMMEND** to Cabinet:

- The 2016/2017 revenue budget
- The 2016/2017 fees and charges.

The meeting terminated at 7.03 pm

SUBJECT:	DECC Communities Fund Project
REPORT OF:	Portfolio Holder Environment Policy Advisory Group – Cllr Luisa Sullivan
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Anita Cacchioli - Interim Services Director
REPORT AUTHOR	Joanna Faul Joanna.faul@southbucks.gov.uk 01895 837280
WARD/S AFFECTED	Iver and Burnham

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the Portfolio Holder and Members of the PAG with an update on the Department of Communities and Climate Change (DECC) Communities Fund project.

RECOMMENDATION

Members of the PAG to note the report.

2. Content of Report

2.1 Background and Project Outline

2.2 In March 2014, South Bucks District Council, along with fourteen other local authorities¹, were successful in winning £2,574,991 from the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to retrofit solid wall insulation (SWI) homes in each of the districts through grants covering 60% of total costs or a maximum of £6,000 per property.

2.3 The aim of the award was to stimulate interest in the Green Deal programme and create the local infrastructure necessary to deliver improvements through the programme. The award contained an additional funding stream to develop the local supply chain of Green Deal Approved Installers.

The key targets were:-

1. Install SWI and latterly wider energy efficiency measures to 586 homes, including 10 Show Homes
2. Enable 40 new installers to become Green Deal / PAS 2030 Approved
3. Provide top up funding through Green Deal Plans to enable customers to pay for measures

2.4 With agreement of the other 14 local authorities, South Bucks District Council (SBDC) was appointed the 'Accountable Body' for the partnership, whereby it is responsible for financial probity / risk, and overall key decision making on the project.

2.5 SBDC appointed the National Energy Foundation (NEF) as a Project Manager to run the project from May 2014. This was followed by the appointment of a Green Deal Provider², Foster Property Maintenance (part of the Lakehouse Group) to undertake the SWI retrofitting and deliver Green Deal Plans.

2.6 The Council and partnership have managed many issues through effective project management including;

¹ Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Milton Keynes Council, Wycombe District Council, South and Vale District Councils, West Oxfordshire District Council, Cotswold District Council, Cherwell District Council, Watford District Council, Three Rivers District Council, London Borough of Ealing, West Berkshire District Council.

² A Green Deal Provider is a company / consortium who have gone through a rigorous Government process to obtain 'Provider' status in order to deliver Green Deal Finance.

- Delays in project start and continuous changes to the grant, target audience and Green Deal by Government together with its slow response in decision making
- Introduction of competing grant schemes such as the Home Improvement Fund (HIF) by Central Government
- Poor national marketing of the Green Deal
- The cancellation of the Green Deal programme and the closure of the Green Deal Bank by Government following the election
- The cessation of the Green Deal Installer Network
- Lack of installer knowledge in delivering SWI to owner occupiers leading to a slower than anticipated delivery of installs by the contractor and poor communication between the installer and customers
- Lack of awareness and acceptance by residents of the value of SWI despite direct engagement with householders in the targeted areas.
- Due to the complexity of the Green Deal programme DECC agreed to extend the original timescales for the Project to September 2016 with sign-ups by March 31st 2016.

2.7 Opportunity for Change

2.8 In spite of the negativity around Green Deal and the issues and risks that the project has had to overcome, the partnership has continued to deliver. Following changed priorities and direction from Central Government, the Project has re-focused activity to reduce fuel poverty.

2.9 The Fuel Poverty measures are proving extremely popular with residents, and the project is now managing over subscription in some Districts. Already Chiltern and South Bucks have received the target number of grant applications, with Chiltern being oversubscribed with a waiting list. The project is likely to exceed its target of installing energy efficiency measures to 586 dwellings.

In terms of completions to date, at December 2015 there were:-

- 566 Green Deal Assessments / EPC's completed
- 311 sign ups³,
- 299 completed SWI installations⁴
- 8 finance packages provided through the Green Deal Investment Bank

3. Consultation

Not Applicable

4. Options

Not Applicable

5. Corporate Implications

6.1 A proportion of Officer time has been recovered from the award from funding for this project.

6.2 The authority has managed the legal implications relating to State Aid and

³ Contract offer and acceptance

⁴ All paperwork in place, e.g. manufacturers warranties, guarantees and signed off by the customer. Sign off by the customer triggers payment of grant

procurement through this project.

- 6.3 The Project Board has demonstrated effective partnership working across 15 local authorities and the project has delivered significant reductions in householder energy use and savings to the wider health and social care economy as well as reducing CO2 emissions. Please refer Appendix 1 for a full update on the project.

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

7.1 **Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils: Joint Business Plan 2015 – 2020**

- Prosperous and diverse economies that encourage local employers and small businesses so we can protect the areas' economy for the future and achieve a better balance between the jobs available and the people to fill them
- Sustainable environments where people take pride in their community and embrace low carbon living
- Good health enjoyed by all, including those in deprived groups, where people take responsibility for their own well-being by making healthy lifestyle choices

7.2 **South Bucks Aims and Objectives Summary**

- Provide great value services
- Promote healthy communities
- Promote sustainability

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 By 31st March offers of grant will cease. All installations, audits, evidence gathering and other documentation on the project will cease by September 2016.
- 8.2 Several LA's are looking at alternative ways to fund fuel poverty measures, including the Bucks Affordable Warmth Network (AWN), managed by Chiltern District Council. The AWN is seeking further Energy Company Obligation (ECO) payments from companies such as E.ON. Such funding will help with the installation of capital measures.

This page is intentionally left blank

Innovation in Partnership South Bucks District Council & Partners

Introduction

Launched in March 2013, Green Deal Together a Community Interest Company formed the basis of an innovative partnership comprising 14 local authorities (LA's) and the National Energy Foundation (NEF), as follows:-



The purpose of the partnership was to form a Green Deal Provider in the absence of energy efficiency grant schemes, and provide a single point of contact for advice information and grants for local residents from the 14 areas.

The geographical area coverage of the Partnership is as follows:-



Delivering Ambition

A successful application by South Bucks District Council to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Green Deal Communities Fund for £2,574,991 was made to deliver solid wall insulation (SWI) on domestic dwellings, providing a 70% subsidy to homeowners (Phase I). The grant programme has since been extended to support uptake of energy efficiency measures, particularly among fuel poor households (Phase II).

The project is delivering SWI and other energy efficiency improvements to combat fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions to 586 dwellings. The DECC funding has triggered and is blended with Energy Company Obligation (ECO)¹ funding, top up contributions from Local Authorities and more recently British Gas. This blending of funds demonstrates a clear vision to provide outcomes for local communities, and the joined up approach taken by all partners to ensure efficient use of available resources.

It has provided a vehicle to involve communities, raising the profile and awareness of household energy efficiency in the Districts, and has tackled the following factors with demonstrable outcomes:-

- Fourteen LA's, plus private sector and community partners
- Meeting tight delivery timescales
- Enabling the delivery market to grow via the scale and mix of property types
- Meeting challenges such as the delivery to both rural and urban areas

¹ The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government scheme to obligate larger suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises in Britain

- Delivering SWI and energy efficiency improvements to different housing types from flats to detached properties, within all tenures.
- Managing different policies e.g. planning and building control
- Demonstrating the benefits of SWI to local communities (show homes).
- Drawing in all available funding
- Willingness of the LA's to put aside boundaries for a common aim; saving time, resources and putting funding where it really counts - into communities
- Tangible, relevant and cost effective **long term** local outcomes

Joint Priorities Delivered!

Phase II of the project is alleviating fuel poverty. Eight LA's are participating in this element, joining forces with the Bucks and Oxon Affordable Warmth and the Better Homes, Better Health Partnerships. These refer on residents suffering illnesses exacerbated by cold homes, for energy efficiency measures.



Joint LA priorities can be demonstrated through Home Energy Conservation Act targets, and fuel poverty and carbon reduction targets set out on the various LA websites, for example:-

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/HECA>

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/housing/managing-your-home/improving-energy-efficiency>

<http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/environment/climate-change-home-energy/energy-efficiency-affordable-warmth/>

<http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/council-services/housing/private-housing/energy-efficiency-for-homes.aspx>

<http://www.nef.org.uk/knowledge-hub/view/decc-green-deal-communities-programme>

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/affordablewarmth>

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/housing/managing-your-home/improving-energy-efficiency>

Delivering Innovation & Sharing Resources

The partnership is using innovative approaches for project delivery, as follows:-

1. The partnership approach is innovative in term of its scale and wide geographical coverage.
2. Shared intelligence and resources has benefited local residents. The partnership draws on partner and contractor expertise and is able to deliver, not deliberate.
3. The Partnership has jointly created and works to pan-regional project/grant criteria.

4. Working with the Bucks and Oxon Affordable Warmth Networks has the additional benefit and value of offering a much wider range of advice and services to residents, not just administering grants!
5. The provision of a real 'one stop shop'! LA's are funding NEF to act as Project Manager who acts as the 'clearing house' for grant allocation and delivery of works. All residents just have to dial one number for home energy efficiency advice and the relevant grant scheme. Please refer to Annex 1 for the referral process.
6. The project has used social media as a communication tool - such as advertising on West Oxfordshire, Chiltern and South Bucks Facebook and Twitter for example, rather than just a news article on the website.
7. LA's and NEF agreed joint marketing approaches under the Affordable Warmth Banner, providing residents with a secure, enduring and trusted brand image.
8. There has been a pan-regional approach to delivering shared materials such as marketing, contractors, funding and learning thereby increasing efficiencies, removing traditional and parochial approaches to the use of resources.
9. The partnership has contracted a consortium of energy assessors to allow pan-regional delivery to increase efficiencies. The partnership also works with Green Deal Installers, ensuring the delivery of measures recommended in an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), and drawing down ECO funding, along with ECO directly from one of the 'big six' energy companies.
10. Flexibility and ability of the Partnership to meet new/changed national policy priorities halfway through Phase I of the SWI project.
11. Delivery of resources to need rather than within set boundaries. This has required the development of trust, reciprocity and compromise between partners

Communication

Delivering scale, innovation, ambition and joint priorities requires clear communications between partners and with, and through communities. Throughout the project we have focussed on delivering a single, clear message.

Partner Communications

Joint LA priorities, together with significant engagement back up from Senior Managers and Members, provided the willingness to proceed as a partnership.

A Project Board including all partners, contractors and project sponsors, meets monthly to discuss process delivery and progress.

Other additional communications take place between the monthly board meetings with project sponsors, contractors and their staff and LA's, depending on which aspect of the project is being delivered.

Communications and clarity have been central to the timekeeping and delivery of the project, aiding transparency and trust.

Community Collaboration & Communication

NEF website hosts a central resource for all participating LA communities/residents, with each LA website linking to this resource.

Community engagement has been the lynchpin of the project, and some examples are as follows:-

- Visiting mosques in Chesham and in Aylesbury to engage with the local Imams and minority ethnic communities where English may not be their first language.
- Working with/delivering through community groups for example Future Wolverton, a transition community who took on the mantle of door to door engagement with residents, who held a community fair to engage with residents and who supported residents through the delivery process. The project also worked directly with other transition towns such as Think! Burnham and Change for Chesham.
- Watford and Three Rivers District Councils delivered skilful communications for residents on Boundary Way to advertise the SWI offer on the remaining half of the estate that has not undergone SWI. Subsequently Boundary Way is now a near complete solid wall insulated housing estate.
- Community events also were held in various LA areas such as West Berkshire, Chesham (Townsend community) & Wycombe (hosted by Wycombe Environment Centre). In addition where large scale works were taking place such as Harebreaks Estate and Boundary Way, contractors brought in their own Community Officers who worked with residents directly, providing advice and hand holding.
- Of critical importance was the one stop shop phone number covering the whole of the project, and valuable support from NEF.

Following are extracts from resident's surveys following works completion:-

Very impressed with the support from NEF...found them to be extremely prompt and efficient

Our main concern was in the detail....and we are happy with the results.

The house is now very, very comfortable I am very pleased with the result

Overall very well managed

NEF were very supportive and encouraging I am very grateful for their help

It's an amazing scheme which has improved our home beyond where I think we would ever have gotten to on our own.

83% would recommend solid wall insulation to others living in their local area

31% think that their neighbours are more likely to install solid wall insulation, given that they have installed solid wall insulation

15% would describe their level of comfort as very good or good before retrofit, compared to 62% after retrofit

77% are happy or very happy with the impact their solid wall insulation has had on warmth/thermal comfort

Metrics

The following sets out the financial cost/benefit analysis of the project (grant) and savings to the National Health Service (NHS) and social care sector, using the BRE's Health Cost Calculator.

The savings detailed are based on a pre-work likelihood of excess cold of 1:100, approximately 4 excessively cold days in the next 12 months, and the assumption that the work undertaken will improve the property to the national average. In a large proportion of cases, however, the property will have been improved to above this level, so the annual savings detailed are likely to be an under-estimate.

Phase I Internal (IWI) & External (EWI) Solid Wall Insulation²

Cost Savings to NHS and Social Care

Phase 1 IWI - Costs / Approximate	Savings to NHS and Social Care per property	Total Savings per annum
54 properties at £900 grant Total cost to project £48,600	NHS - £273	£14,742
	Social care - £683	£36,882
Phase 1 EWI - Costs / Approximate	Savings to NHS and Social Care per property	Total Savings per annum
253 properties at £3500 grant Total cost to project £885,500	NHS - £273	£69,069
	Social Care - £683	£172,799
Phase 2 Fuel Poverty EWI - Costs / Approximate	Savings to NHS and Social Care per property	Total Savings per annum
100 properties at £6000 grant (50% DCF 50% LA) Total cost to project £300,000	NHS - £273	£27,300
	Social Care - £683	£68,300
Costs are 'one offs' All savings are annual	ECO = lifetime cost saving of 36 years	Cost saving to the NHS & Social Care is £14m (con't)

² These savings are based on reducing an excess cold hazard to the national average

Phase 2 Other Energy Efficiency Measures ³ - Costs	Savings per property	Total Savings per annum
178 properties energy efficiency measures One-off cost to the project £668,735.06	NHS £48,867	£171,124
	Social Care £122,257	
Costs are 'one offs' All savings are annual	ECO = lifetime cost saving of 12 years	Cost saving to the NHS & Social Care is £2m
The overall combined anticipated savings to the NHS and social care over the lifetime of measures = £16m		

SWI Savings per Household over 36 years

Measure	Savings /Home
EWI p.a	£2,44m
IWI p.a.	£286,286
Total household savings / 36 years	£2.73m

Other Savings

1. Boiler Replacements

Based on a cost value of £2100 per boiler, and with 62 applications in progress or installed plus a further 22 applications accepted, makes the **draw down figure from British Gas**, to date, approximately **£176,400**.

2. Energy Efficiency Cost Saving / Household

The average cost saving for energy efficiency measures per household would be £204⁴ /year. Over the lifetime of the measure (12 years), at 178 properties, **the overall anticipated saving would be £435,744/household**.

³ These savings are based on reducing an excess cold hazard to the national average, and follow measures detailed in an Energy Performance Certificate carried out by the project

⁴ The £204 figure is based on <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/replacing-my-boiler>)

3. ECO Drawn Down

The financial ECO draw down is **£408,781** for home owners across all households.

4. Tonnes CO2 Saved

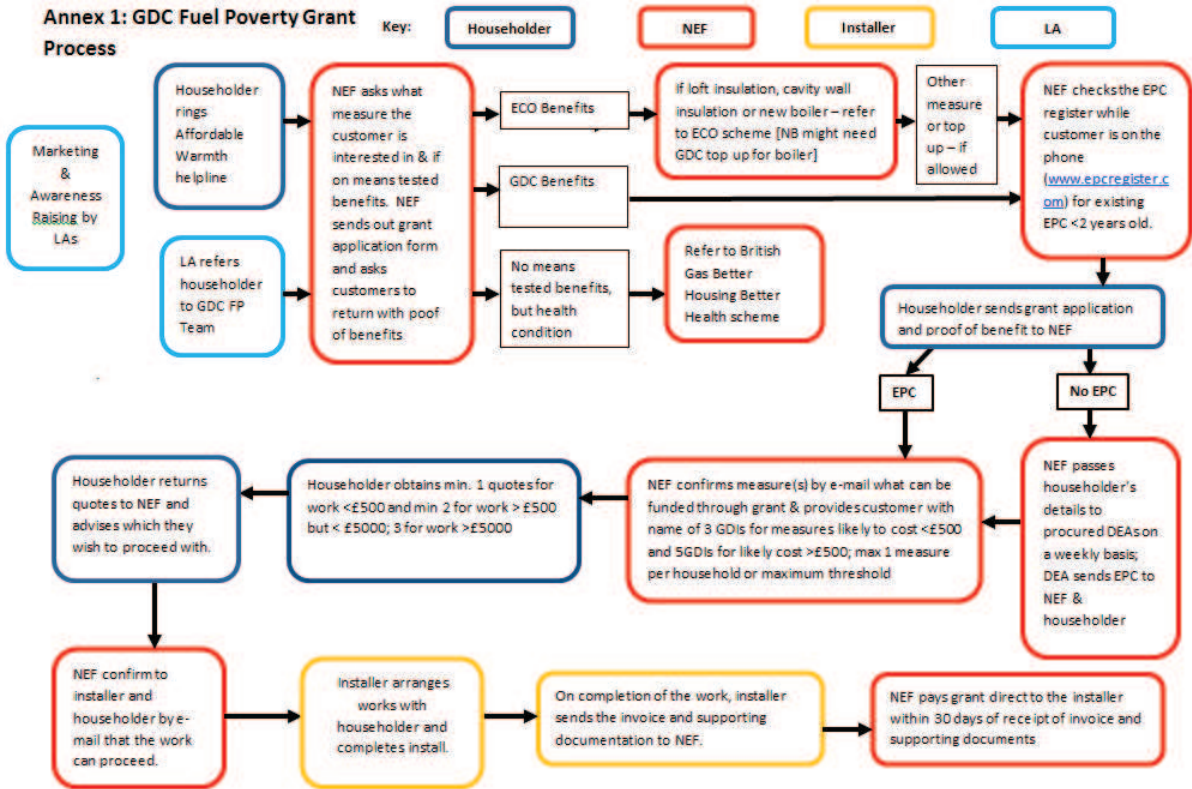
Projected CO2 saved as a result of this project = **554,904 tonnes**.

Win, Win, Win! Social, Financial & Environmental Value

At the closure of the project in September 2016, the project will have exceeded its target of installing energy efficiency measures into 586 dwellings. Residents are already being put onto reserve lists for energy efficiency works, and several LA's are looking at alternative ways to fund these.

The project has and continues to provide social, financial and environmental value in terms of:-

- **Keeping residents warm and healthy**
- **Reducing the burden and cost on health/social welfare**
- **Reducing resident's spend on energy**
- **Reducing energy use, thereby reducing carbon emissions and local improving air quality for a period of up to 36 years**



This page is intentionally left blank