

APPENDIX B

Proposed activity under the Communities and Place theme.

A new Energy Doctor programme

Current Support for Domestic Resource Efficiency

Several mechanisms exist in Buckinghamshire to support the implementation of energy consumption reduction measures in domestic properties:

- **Helping Hands:** a service operated by the Community Support Team, which refers enquirers (where appropriate) to the **Better Housing Better Health** programme, or Charris Grants. Better Housing Better Health operates the **ECO flex scheme**, a Government initiative where obligated energy companies have to improve the ability of low income, fuel poor, and vulnerable households to heat their homes. This includes the installation of insulation and upgrading inefficient heating systems.
- **Sustainable Warmth:** a programme funded by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to implement energy performance improvement measures in on and off-gas grid homes in Buckinghamshire (until 31st March 2023) with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F, or G, where household income is ≤£30,000. The average cost of interventions per household in on-gas grid homes is £10,000. The scheme is being delivered by City Energy Group, and is being largely managed by the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (with guidance from the Climate Response Team).

Gaps in current provision

These schemes provide measures that affect the status of fixed assets in domestic properties – typically those that will result in a reduction of energy used to heat premises. There is a relatively long lead time for these measures to be implemented – dependent on the completion of surveys, provision and acceptance of quotations, availability of materials and suitably qualified labour, and installations at suitable times. A gap therefore exists regarding the installation of low-cost easy retrofit resource efficiency (LCERRE) measures.

Energy Doctor

The **Seasonal Health Intervention Network** (SHINE) is a one-stop referral system for the NHS and third sector helping them provide affordable warmth and seasonal health interventions to residents in Islington. In Islington, an 'Energy Doctor in the Home' home visiting service is available under SHINE, which involves Council-trained personnel providing advice and LCERRE measures to eligible residents. Buckinghamshire's Energy Doctor programme is designed to operate along similar lines.

The Council's Energy Management and Climate Response Teams manage the Council's obligations in relation to the management of energy and water across the Council's estate and achieving net zero carbon emissions in Buckinghamshire by 2050 respectively. Despite having a comprehensive understanding of the costs and effectiveness of resource saving measures, the teams do not have the capacity currently to include a bespoke programme of activity to help progress their implementation in domestic premises.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will fund a new Energy Doctor programme, comprising one administrator (grade 2) and three officers (grade 6) being added to the Energy Management

Team, and the required tools and materials to progress the implementation of LCERRE measures. The officers will focus on providing advice on support available (including funding and grants) to assist with the implementation of resource efficiency measures, identify and recommend appropriate interventions, and provide (and fit, where necessary) LCERRE measures to support the sustainable use of resources (including reducing energy and water consumption) and help mitigate fuel poverty.

It is forecast that 230 household visits can be conducted by March 2023. These number of visits are forecast to achieve the following annual savings for residents:

- Around 214,000 KWHs of energy consumption saved
- 45 tonnes CO₂ saved
- Fuel cost savings (across the 230 households) of £34,000 (average saving of £148 per household per year)

LCERRE measures delivered will include:

- reflective radiator panels;
- LED lightbulbs;
- door, window, and chimney draught proofing;
- secondary glazing film;
- hot water cylinder insulation jackets;
- solar generators;
- electricity consumption monitors.