

Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	31 st January 2023
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Highways and Housing
Report Author	Stuart Morris
Public/Private Document	Public

Strategic Housing - Grant Funding

Executive Summary

1. The Council's Strategic Housing Service ('Strategic Housing') make routine applications for specialist grant funding, both direct and indirect to central Government. The purpose of this report is to secure authority to accept specific funding streams either secured or hoped to be secured within the next 12 month period.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees to:
 - Accept the funding offers ('the funding') as contained within schedule 1;
 - Delegate responsibility for relevant expenditure of the funding to the Director of Neighbourhoods and as per any existing scheme of delegation, which would include those relating to the Housing Act 2004.

Reason for Recommendation

3. To allow for delivery of those schemes as listed within schedule 1.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Without the ability to take receipt of external grant monies those specific programmes will not be able to be delivered by the Council.

Alternatives Considered

- 4.1 Not to accept the funding: Would be a failure to maximise revenue and/or capital grant funding which would reduce the ability of the council to deliver significant schemes within the Borough.

Costs and Budget Summary

5. Receipt of the funding would be a net gain to the Authority and funding has been provided by external funders for specified programmes. Grant monies must therefore be budgeted to relevant allocated programmes, rather than being listed as general.

Risk and Policy Implications

6. As part of any grant funding application risks are closely identified and monitored on a dynamic basis. The projects form part of wider strategic housing policy goals and initiatives and do not require any significant immediate new policy implications.

Each funding stream obtained will receive ordinarily a grant offer letter setting out monitoring requirements and other conditions to ensure the grant is used for the purpose intended and clawback provisions (where inserted) will be adhered to ensure there are not any unapproved or significant changes to those projects or long term under-performance.

Consultation

7. Consultation will be undertaken where required (as per individual delivery programme requirements) and through ongoing member engagement, portfolio holder reports, and public consultation events.

Background Papers

Place of Inspection

8. Appendix 1: Funding Offers (below main report)

N/A

For Further Information Contact:

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Appendix 1: Funding Offers

Scheme Name	Scheme Description	Funding Type (£)	Statutory/Bid-Funding Required Consultation	Funding Secured
Good Landlord Scheme - Apprenticeship	GMCA and apprenticeship funding to establish a 3 year apprenticeship embedded within Strategic Housing for the purpose of gaining a recognised qualification in housing standards	£35k from GMCA 'Good Landlord Scheme' over a period of 3 years. Direct award.	No	Subject to grant agreement with GMCA
Flood Innovation & Resilience Programmes	To develop new flood innovation measures within the Wardleworth/Littleborough area, which will include improving housing flood defences and energy efficiency programmes across an area containing approximately 1000 homes.	£6 million from the Environment Agency over a period of 6 years. Competitive award.	Yes – Established team will run multiple consultation events, including being directed by a Flood Partnership Board.	Funding won after an extensive OBC provided to the Environment Agency – flagship within England.
Home Upgrade Grant (Phase 2)	To provide energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to improve the energy performance and heating systems for households 'off grid' (gas). Typical works would include External Wall/Internal Wall Insulation programmes for eligible households	£3.1 million from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Competitive award.	Public consultation with blocks/areas included within the programme.	Yes, funding won in competitive process.
Housing Enforcement: Civil Penalties Programme	To improve the LAs ability and capacity to utilise civil penalties for enforcement of legal responsibilities of landlords within the private rented sector.	£50k from central Government via joint-programme with 9 other GM LAs	No	Figure subject to final confirmation through GMCA
ECO4	Energy Company Obligation (ECO4 – round 4). To provide insulation and heating upgrades to qualifying households across the Borough. Collaborative programme with national energy supplier(s). The programme	Undetermined – any award is strictly applied and monitored by the Department for Business, Energy &	Public consultation with blocks/areas included within the programme.	Figure subject to final confirmation from funding provider.

	will deliver individual grants to qualifying households.	Industrial Strategy (BEIS)		