

Cabinet

8th December 2020

Permission to procure and award Healthy Homes Dorset 2020 contract

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr T Ferrari, Economic Growth, Assets & Property

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Jon Bird

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That cabinet: -

1. Approve the procurement of the Healthy Homes Dorset 2020 contract, value up to £1.5 million
2. Delegate authority to award the contract to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Economic Growth, Assets and Property

Reason for Recommendation:

The Council has recently been awarded £859,400 from round 1a of the Government Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery initiative and is planning further bids to the fund. Meeting the tight delivery deadlines attached to the grants will be challenging if procurement is not completed swiftly. Procuring a contract with a value of up to £1.5 million allows headroom for current and future grants in addition to the original Dorset Councils budget for this project.

1. Executive Summary

Preparation for approval to procure a project delivery contract under the Scheme of Delegation (Value £300,000) was in progress when Dorset Council was awarded a £859,400 grant from round 1a of the GHG LAD initiative. The grant is to be spent through Healthy Homes Dorset and existing frameworks. The grant must be used by 31st March 2021. The Council intends to bid for further funding from the GHG LAD fund. A contract value of up to £1.5 million allows for compliant procurement.

Dorset Council capital funding for this project was approved by Cabinet on 28th July 2020 following Public Health Dorset approval to fund the revenue elements of the project in January 2020.

Healthy Homes Dorset (HHD) contributes to four of the Council's five priorities and is a named project in both the Dorset Council Plan and the Our Dorset Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

It actively seeks match and gap funding for heating and insulation measures, and acts as funder of last resort when external funding is insufficient or not available

From 2015 to 2020, the Public Health Dorset-funded pilot project provided advice to thousands of residents and improved hundreds of homes to help reduce illness - predominantly circulatory, respiratory, and mental health problems - caused and exacerbated by cold homes, improving quality of life and reducing associated health and social care costs. This project builds on the experience gained to date.

2. Financial Implications

There is no new financial requirement. Council contributions remain unchanged. The increased budget is to allow for expenditure of current and anticipated government grants.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

The project is designed around the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Standard 117, Preventing Excess Winter Deaths and Illness Associated with Cold Homes, Quality Statement 3: People who are vulnerable to the health problems associated with a cold home receive tailored support with help from a local single-point-of-contact health and housing referral service.

4. Climate implications

Healthy Homes Dorset is one of the seven activities listed on the Council's "What are we already doing to fight climate change". web page. External funding is key to cost-effective delivering our climate change strategy.

5. Other Implications

Approval of the procurement enables more home energy efficiency improvements to be made, improving public health, reducing demand for health and social care, reducing emissions, and providing local employment opportunities.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: MEDIUM
Residual Risk: LOW

The current risk is related to the financial and reputational risks associated with the potential for external funding opportunities to be missed.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

The project EQIA showed a generally positive impact but there is a lack of data on impacts on specific protected groups. The EQIA Action Plan includes annual evidence reviews to check if new research now available, report to project board, and act on evidence as appropriate.

8. Appendices

None

9. Background Papers

None

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.