



Committee Name: Cabinet

Committee Date: 07/07/2021

Report Title: The award of a contract for retrofit external insulation

Portfolio:	Portfolio holder for safe and sustainable city environment
Report from:	Executive director of community services
Wards:	University ward
OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	

Purpose

- To consider delegating authority to award a contract for green homes grant – retrofit external insulation

Recommendation:

- To delegate approval to the Executive director of community services in consultation with the leader of the council to award the contract for green homes grant – retrofit external insulation at an estimated value of £500,000. The final award value will be within existing allocated budget.

Policy Framework

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
- Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
- Inclusive economy

This report meets the Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment corporate priority

This report addresses 'Improve the quality and safety of private sector housing' strategic action in the Corporate Plan

This report helps to meet housing, regeneration and development objective of

the COVID-19 Recovery Plan

Report Details

- 1.01 As part of the government funded Green Homes Grant scheme we have been awarded funding to improve 50 private sector homes in Norwich by installing external wall insulation.
- 1.02 This will be on ex-social housing which we have identified as being low energy efficiency and residents are likely to be low income. This work is required as part of our grant delivery.
- 1.03 These works will lead to significant carbon and utility bill savings for these properties but must be completed by 30 September 2021.
- 1.04 In order to complete these works, we need to contract an installer to provide them.
- 1.05 A number of different frameworks were identified to provide these works however they were not able to identify suppliers with enough capacity to deliver these works within the funding deadlines.
- 1.06 We have received quotes to deliver this work to recommended standards and with high enough capacity to complete these.
- 1.07 These quotes will be assessed to ensure value for money and good quality works for our residents.
- 1.08 All companies will conform to the standards of the Green Homes Grant scheme.
- 1.09 Approval to delegate the award is sought as the cabinet timetable does not allow for a report be brought to cabinet identifying the winning supplier and the works to be delivered in the timeframe required. Therefore, cabinet is requested to delegate the decision to the Executive director of community services in consultation with the leader of the council
- 1.10 The decision to award the contract will be published as a Key Decision and therefore members will have the opportunity to review this decision.

Consultation

- Portfolio holders are aware of the project and the need for it to be commenced within the timescales set out in this report.

Implications

Financial and Resources

Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2019-22 and Budget.

- There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources – all works are externally funded by the BEIS Green Homes Grant awarded to the council in January 2021

Legal

- We do not foresee any legal complications from this
- The grant has previously been assessed and approved by our legal team

Statutory Considerations

Consideration:	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	N/A
Health, Social and Economic Impact	N/A
Crime and Disorder	N/A
Children and Adults Safeguarding	N/A
Environmental Impact	This work will improve the fabric of some of the worst performing homes in Norwich, considerably reducing carbon emissions from them.

Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
Issues with installation impacting residents	Reputational blow to council Possible remedial works required	All installers will be Trustmark registered Regular inspections by council staff will take place Proposed risk is therefore low
Works not installed by scheme deadline	Loss of reputation to council	Approved contract will allow works to take place

Other Options Considered

Do nothing: The funding has been applied for and approved, if we do not complete the works then it will be lost and the low income homes will not benefit from the savings from having solar panels installed. This option is not recommended.

In house provision: Norwich City Council does not have any existing in-house provision for this work. This option is not recommended.

Joint venture provision: The service cannot currently be provided by any of the Councils current joint ventures or partnerships. This option is not recommended

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

1. This approach is recommended so that works can be completed on schedule, in line with the requirements of the grant

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