

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods
Date	16 March 2023
Present	Councillor Craghill (Executive Member)
In Attendance	Michael Jones, Head of Housing Delivery and Asset Management Andrew Bebbington, Housing Policy Officer

13. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any disclosable pecuniary interests, or other registerable interests she might have in the respect of business on the agenda, if she had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. None were declared.

14. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2023 be approved and then signed as a correct record by the Executive Member.

15. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Ben Burton, Chair of Labour's Housing Policy Forum and a candidate for Heworth, spoke on agenda item 4, Update on retrofit programme including Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2) bid. He supported the HUG2 bid but addressed why he felt there was a lack of progress on council retrofit programmes, and the need for a clearer direction on retrofitting the council's homes than was currently proposed. He also noted that an advice service had been started by the charity sector and more progress was now required to create a one-stop shop solution.

16. Update on retrofit programme including Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2) bid

The Executive Member considered a report that provided a progress on delivering retrofit works, and provided clarity on the next steps to enable projects to be delivered in York within the timescale of the programme.

The Head of Housing Delivery and Asset Management provided an overview, noting the programme requirements that would contribute to the priorities of the retrofit action plan, which sought to maximise the delivery of future government programmes in the private sector.

The Executive Member noted that should the application be successful, a mix of properties would be targeted for works, including fabric and heating upgrades in rural properties, heating upgrades to apartments in blocks with all electric heating, and fabric measures and heating upgrades to properties with old non-gas heating.

In terms of the wider retrofit programme, officers confirmed they had submitted an application to extend the delivery timescale for Local Authority Delivery 3 (LAD3) and Home Upgrade Grant Phase 1 (HUG1) to 30 September 2023, but no formal response had been received. It was also noted that no formal response had been received regarding HUG2 and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), but officers were extremely positive that these programmes would be successful, and work to identify suitable properties was continuing.

In response to the public speaker, officers felt the retrofit action plan was explicit on the ambition, and they confirmed they had been successful in securing grant funding for a retrofit advice service to be strengthened. It was also noted that there would be a further funding opportunity to develop a larger sub-regional energy advice service.

In answer to questions raised by the Executive Member, the Housing Policy Officer confirmed that government grant funding schemes had certain criteria and the HUG2 funding eligibility would include low-income neighbourhood characteristics. It was also noted that the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership were undertaking a feasibility study into a one-stop

shop retrofit service and the UK Innovation Project would also be providing financial advice to those on a low income.

The Executive Member noted the challenges faced over the last three years and commended officers for the achievements made. She recognised officers dedication and hard work to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions across all tenures and she supported the ambitions within the action plan.

Resolved:

- (i) That the progress to date on delivering retrofit works following the success of attracting grant funding to support cross tenure improvement works, be noted.
- (ii) That upon successful notification of the grant, the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed to enable the commencement of procurement activity and more specific site analysis works.
- (iii) That prior to the signing of a delivery contract following a procurement exercise, a report will be provided to Executive seeking approval to sign the delivery contract and commence works.

Reason: To deliver the council's ambitions for minimising vulnerable residents' energy bills, supporting health and wellbeing, building the local green economy and retrofit supply chains, and reducing carbon emissions in the city.

Cllr Craghill, (Executive Member)

[The meeting started at 10.01 am and finished at 10.21 am].