

PILOT ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICE - SCOPING REPORT

Housing and Health Advisory Committee - 7 February 2023

Report of: Sarah Robson, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer People and Places

Status: For consideration

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary:

At the Housing and Health Advisory Committee on 22 November 2022, the Portfolio Holder (Housing and Health) set out an outline concept for a Council service to provide an Energy Efficiency Advisory Service to residents which would assist in reducing energy costs and carbon emissions, whilst providing an income to the Council.

In discussion with the Head of Housing and Private Sector Housing Team Leader, a draft scoping report is now provided.

This report supports the Key Aim of: Housing Strategy 2022-2027

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Kevin Maskell

Contact Officer: Sharon Donald, Housing Strategy Manager, Extension 7131

Recommendation to Housing & Health Advisory Committee:

- a) To consider the details of the scoping report; and
- b) To endorse continued examination of options and costs/potential income associated with providing an Energy Efficiency Advisory Service to residents

Reason for recommendation:

To consider and comment upon the initial scoping report prior to further exploration and evaluation of an Energy Efficiency Advisory Service.

Introduction and Background

- 1 As the cost of living rises for households across the country, growing energy prices disproportionately impact those on lower incomes. With two thirds (66%) of adults in Britain reporting a cost of living increase, rising energy prices are a growing factor affecting household budgets.
- 2 Whilst many households are aware that their homes are not energy efficient, advice on the most beneficial and cost effective ways to improve energy efficiency is often required. There is a lot of advice available but residents can be concerned that what is being promoted may not be suitable or indeed the best option for their home.
- 3 It is therefore suggested that the Council consider offering a 'one stop' Energy Efficiency advisory service to Sevenoaks residents.

Pilot Energy Efficiency Service

1 Scope of Pilot

To offer an advisory service to residents of Sevenoaks, to include:-

- inspection of property and use of Thermal Imaging Camera to identify potential areas where energy efficiency measures can be put in place;
- To provide a report and energy efficiency recommendations;
- To provide information on possible grant funding and check eligibility;
- For large scale improvements - identify contractors through an approved framework;
- To consider the use of the Handy Person Service for minor improvements;
- To provide a holistic service and signpost to other agencies including HERO.

2 Further Scoping Work Required

Prior to formulating a draft service for consideration, further thought will need to be given to the following:-

- What reliable advice is already available and easily accessible?
- What can a Council-led service offer over and above any free advice that is available?
- Estimate of costs to the Council including the costs of:-
 - Visiting properties
 - Preparation of reports
 - Use of Thermal Imaging Camera
 - Officer Time - including administration, signposting to other agencies/contractors
- Evaluation of potential cost benefit for the Council to procure further Thermal Imaging Cameras (estimated cost per camera = £3,000)

Other options Considered and/or rejected

This is a scoping report and further options will be considered as the exploration of the above continues.

Key Implications

Financial

As above.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Legal implications of providing advice to residents will need to be considered.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

If such a service was proven to be viable, it would have a positive influence on Net Zero implications.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Sarah Robson

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - People and Places