

Report to: Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

Date: 5 January 2023

Subject: Community Retrofit Hub Scheme

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Community Renewal Fund Retrofit Hub Pilot, which is one of the projects within our West Yorkshire Better Homes Hub Programme. This update will provide information on the main outcomes and learnings that have arisen from the delivery of the scheme, and the next steps. The Climate and Environment Committee has oversight of retrofit activity however as this project is a place-based pilot targeting a single neighbourhood, seeking views from and sharing learning with the Place Regeneration and Housing Committee is a priority.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Mayor of West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Leaders have declared a climate emergency and set a target for the region to be net zero carbon by 2038, with significant progress by 2030.
- 2.2 Modelling estimates that 680,000 homes will need retrofitting in order to achieve our net zero targets. 11.1 Mt of CO₂ emissions are emitted in West Yorkshire each year (Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways study, 2021). Of this, domestic buildings are responsible for over 26% (2.9 Mt of CO₂ per year). The majority of these emissions come from burning fossil fuels for heat.

- 2.3 If West Yorkshire, and indeed the country, is to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and meet climate targets, the installation of thermal efficiency measures coupled with low carbon heating and generation sources will be crucial.

Better Homes Hub Programme

- 2.4 The Better Homes Hub (the Hub) is an umbrella programme which encompasses all our West Yorkshire activity on domestic energy efficiency retrofit. It incorporates our overarching strategy and the projects that will deliver it (both those currently in delivery and those still in programme development phases).
- 2.5 The projects that are currently in delivery offer an opportunity for learning to be incorporated into the future design of the Hub.
- 2.6 The remainder of the paper provides an update on one of the retrofit programmes currently in delivery and the lessons learnt from this project.

Community Renewal Fund: Retrofit Hub Pilot

- 2.7 The UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) was launched by the Government to support communities most in need across the UK, to pilot programmes and test new approaches towards increasing local economic growth.
- 2.8 In November 2021, the Combined Authority was successful in securing funding for the Retrofit Hub scheme, the objectives of the scheme were to:
- Test a neighbourhood approach to address the social and technical challenges facing communities in Bradford retrofitting 'hard to treat' pre-1919 stone built terraced houses using PAS 2035 quality standards.
 - Provide adults skills with the skills, technical knowledge and experience needed to work in the growing green sector.
- 2.9 Project delivery commenced in January 2022 and completed in November 2022.
- 2.10 The key output of the Retrofit Hub scheme is to deliver at least 100 whole house retrofit assessments to householders living in hard to treat, pre-1919s stone built terraced properties in the Manningham and Toller Ward areas in Bradford.
- 2.11 The majority of households in these wards are of low income, and in receipt of benefits, and most likely to be in fuel poverty. Householders were also provided with energy efficiency advice on what changes could be made to properties to improve the thermal performance of their homes. 150 whole house surveys were completed within the timeframe.
- 2.12 The project also delivered adult skills training, together with additional information, advice and guidance (IAG) and a clear line of sight to further progression and potential employment in the green economy and online

resources to encourage West Yorkshire residents to upskill, reskill or prepare for a future career in the green economy.

- 2.13 A summary of the key successes and challenges of the pilot can be found in **Appendix 1**. Learnings from the CRF Retrofit Hub scheme will increase the Authority's understanding of the barriers and challenges present in low-income communities such as Bradford and what support and intervention would be needed to help homes built using traditional construction methods to become more energy efficient.

Delivery Partners

- 2.14 The Retrofit Hub scheme was delivered in partnership with Manningham Housing Association (MHA) - a social housing association - who were responsible for delivering community engagement and generating resident referrals. EEC Ltd (Energy Efficiency Consultants), the Technical Suppliers, delivered whole house surveys and plans to resident homes identified by MHA as well as developing an architectural toolkit of retrofit design, architectural plans and designs to demonstrate the internal and external modifications that can be made to homes.
- 2.15 West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges (WYCC) were contracted to develop an introductory Retrofit Module to adult learners with the skills, technical knowledge and experience needed to work in the growing green sector, and work with training providers to deliver the course content.
- 2.16 Engaging Education were contracted to develop online resources to encourage young learners to consider a career in the Green Economy, highlight the importance of the climate emergency declaration and showcasing potential careers in the Green Economy.

3 Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The projects and programmes within the Better Homes Hub respond to the Combined Authority's ambition for West Yorkshire to be a net-zero region by 2038. The scheme fits with the Strategic Economic Framework Priority 3: Tackling the climate emergency: Growing our economy while cutting emissions and caring for our environment and, Mayoral Pledge: to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment.

4 Inclusive Growth Implications

- 1.1 The findings of 150 whole house survey plans, and the provision of energy efficiency advice, has enabled householders in a deprived ward, to have the information needed to improve the thermal performance of their properties, understand the benefits arising from the installation of energy efficiency measures and provide residents with advice on what improvements they can undertake to improve the thermal performances of their homes.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 1.2 The project beneficiaries of this scheme are most likely to be on low income and be from a black and minority ethnic background (BAME), specifically from a strong and demographically young community of residents with families originating from South Asian sub-continent, who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- 1.3 Manningham Housing Association (MHA) provided translation services through the use of trained bi-lingual volunteers when promoting the scheme to residents and to the supplier when they were undertaking whole house surveys.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report and the completion of the Retrofit Hub pilot scheme and provides any comments.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Retrofit Hub Key Learnings