

Report to: Climate, Energy & Environment Committee

Date: 21 March 2023

Subject: **Better Homes Hub Update**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide the Committee with an update on the emerging programme of work for the Better Homes Hub and endorse the overarching approach, vision and objectives for the programme.

2. Information

- 2.1. The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has set an ambitious target to be net zero carbon by 2038.
- 2.2. As part of understanding how the target could be achieved the Combined Authority commissioned [research](#) to understand the different pathways and interventions that would enable net zero carbon to be reached.
- 2.3. The research suggests that to meet net zero carbon 680,000 of West Yorkshire's homes will need to be upgraded to a good level of thermal efficiency (EPC C level or higher) with a similar number requiring some form of low carbon heating system e.g. air source heat pump, to be installed.
- 2.4. The results of this research underpin the Combined Authority's [Climate and Environment Plan](#) (CEP). A key area of delivery reflecting the scale of the challenge in decarbonising the regions homes is out Better Homes Hub (BHH). This is an umbrella programme which encompasses all activity on domestic energy efficiency, both existing properties and new builds.

- 2.5. This report follows on from the update provided to Committee at their last meeting. While that report focussed on summarising the retrofit activity that had taken place in the region to date and providing a high-level overview of the BHH, this report provides more detail on the activities that will be progressed through the programme over the next three years and beyond.
- 2.6. The detail relating to the activities to be undertaken under the banner of the Better Homes Hub is contained at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.7. The Committee are requested to note that their meeting in July 2023 is likely to include requests for funding approval on several projects under the banner of the Better Homes Hub.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The programmes and projects within the Better Homes Hub respond to the ambition for West Yorkshire to be net zero carbon by 2038 and the Mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The various schemes within the Better Homes Hub will contribute to the inclusive growth agenda. Fuel poverty affects around 18% of homes in West Yorkshire, higher than the national average, and is a contributing factor in excess winter deaths and affects the ability of people to participate in meaningful and well-paid work. In deprived areas the picture is more acute, owing to income deprivation and poor quality, often older housing.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. Several of the schemes being progressed under the banner of Better Homes Hub are focussed on the social housing sector which tends to have a greater diversity than other tenures. That being said equalities and diversity considerations will be integrated and embedded within all the schemes progressed as part of Better Homes Hub.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Funding for the Better Homes Hub will be provided from the indicative £40 million allocated to Investment Priority 4 by the Combined Authority in February 2022.
- 6.2. In [February 2023](#) the Combined Authority confirmed an indicative potential funding envelope of between £10 million and £13 million for the Better Homes Hub.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1. An internal team has been established to oversee the development and delivery of the Better Homes Hub programme. This is comprised of 4.6 FTEs across the Place and Environment and Economic Implementation Teams.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1. The Better Homes Hub programme is a partnership across several stakeholders and organisations. The development and delivery of the programme has and will continue to be undertaken with stakeholders.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee notes the contents of the report and its associated Appendix, including the intention to bring several funding approvals to the Committee's July 2023 meeting.
- 10.2. That the Committee endorses the overarching approach to the delivery of the programme and its vision and objectives.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Better Homes Hub: Programme Activity