



**Corporate Policy and
Resources Committee**

21st March 2024

**Urgent Item – Recommendation from Prosperous Communities
Committee on 19th March 2024: Healthy Homes Project**

Report by:	Director of Change Management, ICT & Regulatory Services
Contact Officer:	Andy Gray Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager andy.gray@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To seek approval from Committee for the recommendation made by Prosperous Communities Committee on the 19 th March 2024

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Committee are asked to;

- a) Approve the recommendation made by Prosperous Communities Committee on the 19th March 2024 that the Council commits to seeking the required grant funding from the Government for the Healthy Homes Project.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The Council have legal obligations to ensure that the private rented sector is regulated under the Housing Act 1984. Alongside this there are various other legislative and statutory requirements that are place on the Council regards the sector.

The Renters Reform Bill will provide the Council with further obligations, subject to it being confirmed by the Government.

Financial :

If the Council approve engagement in the Healthy Homes Project it will be allocated into one of two funding groups. If it is allocated in to the "Treatment" group it will receive £130k. If it is allocated into the "Control" group it will receive £11k.

The specifics in regards to what this can deliver are not set out by DLUHC as yet, however they have given a broad estimate of how funding can be spent, which is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, which forms parts of appendix 1.

Staffing :

There are no staffing implications. The Healthy Homes Project can be delivered using existing resources.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None noted.

Data Protection Implications :

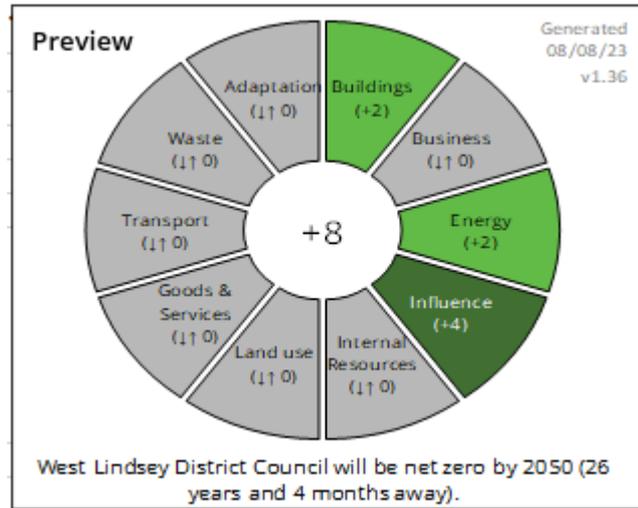
None noted.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

The improvement of housing standards has a direct impact in regard to carbon reductions and helping to minimise energy usage for persons living in any properties.

Specific regulations such as MEES (Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards) focus directly on improving the energy performance ratings of homes and are regulations that the Council currently enforces.

A CESIA wheel has been completed for this report below, outlining the areas where improving housing standards can have a positive environmental impact.



Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None noted.

Health Implications:

It is broadly accepted that improving the condition of and safety of housing contributes to the improved health and wellbeing of the persons residing within it.

The role of homes and buildings in levelling up health and wellbeing
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2022-0170/>

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Prosperous Communities Committee meeting of 12th September 2023., item 32: Private Rented Sector Proposals.

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=176&MId=3432&Ver=4>

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Risk Assessment :
The MoU sets out the requirements that the Council may be obliged to meet. Any non-delivery may require funding received to be returned.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The additional item presented to and approved Prosperous Communities Committee on the 19th of March 2024 is shown in appendix 1.
- 1.2. Appendix 1 sets out the scope of the Healthy Homes project, which the Council has been invited to participate in. This project is looking at testing different approaches to dealing with damp and mould in the PRS. The project will look to boost the capacity of enforcement teams and gather data on what works when enforcing against this issue. 90 Local Authorities have been selected to participate based on the following data;
 - Proportion of non-decent housing in the PRS;
 - Average deprivation score across the Local Authority Area;
 - Proportion of LSOAs falling in the worst 10% most deprived in England;
 - Premature respiratory mortality rate;
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) mortality; and,
 - Emergency Admissions for COPD
- 1.3. As the Council is in line to potentially receive up to £130k, this committee is required to approve that the Council can confirm its interest in the project and complete the required Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This decision is urgent as DLUHC have asked for the MoU to be returned by the 29th of March 2024.
- 1.4. The Healthy Homes Project will be delivered between mid-May 2024 and March 2025 and updates on progress in regard to it will be provided to Councillors.
- 1.5. The project directly aligns with the approval of the Private Rented Sector Commitment (agreed at Prosperous Communities Committee on the 19th March 2024) and depending on the allocated group, could better enable the outcomes from the commitment to be delivered.

END