

Report to Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Subject: Warm Homes Local Grant 2025 to 2028

Date: 1st August 2025

Author: Food, Health and Housing Manager

Wards Affected

All wards

Purpose

To seek approval to enter a partnership arrangement with Nottinghamshire County Council in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of section 25 of the Council's constitution. This partnership will allow Nottinghamshire County Council to manage and administer the Warm Homes Local Grant 2025 to 2028 on behalf of Gedling Borough Council.

Key Decision

Not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT the Portfolio Holder:

- 1) Gives approval for the Council to enter a partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council for the Warm Homes Local Grant, in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of section 25 of the Council's constitution.**
- 2) Notes that the Council will sign under seal a letter of authorisation setting the terms of the partnership.**

1 Background

- 1.1 The primary objective of the Warm Homes: Local Grant is to deliver progress towards the statutory fuel poverty target for England, by improving as many fuel-poor homes as reasonably practicable to energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030, delivering significant annual energy

bill savings for the occupants, not just in the short term, but for good.

- 1.2 In practice this scheme will deliver home energy efficiency improvements to lower income eligible households such as the following Energy Performance Measures:

Insulation:

- Loft insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- Solid wall insulation (internal or external)
- Floor insulation

Windows and Doors:

- Double or triple glazing (where replacing single glazing)
- Energy-efficient external doors

Heating Controls:

- Smart thermostats
- Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs)

Ventilation:

- Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR), where appropriate

Low Carbon Heating Measures

- Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)
- Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP)
- Hybrid Heating Systems (e.g., ASHP with a boiler)
- Air-to-Air Heat Pumps (newly included)
- Solar Thermal Systems

Renewable Energy Measures

- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels
- PV Batteries

- 1.2 The grant scheme was launched nationally in April 2025, with delivery to commence once the agreements, as required under the grant funding agreement and the Dynamic Purchasing System (“DPS”), are in place. This is a three-year grant programme with Project delivery to run from April 2025 to March 2028
- 1.3 The Midlands Net Zero Hub (“MNZH”, “the Funder”) has secured approximately £69.8m of government funding to spend proportionately on properties across the Midlands. This approach to allocating funding is to reduce the need for bidding by each local authority and to target more upgrades and energy saving retrofit measures.
- 1.4 Following an initial expression of interest submitted via email in November 2024, the Midlands Net Zero Hub (“MNZH”, “the Funder”) was successful in securing an indicative allocation of funding to be spent in Gedling Borough Council’s area (see table below).

Gedling	Capital
FY 25/26	£78,714.00
FY 26/27	£401,643.00
FY 27/28	£401,643.00
Scheme Total	£882,000.00

Subject to approval of this report Nottinghamshire County Council's role will be to project manage the delivery of the grant funding for the Project in accordance with the grant funding conditions set out by DESNZ. Nottinghamshire County Council will utilise a portion of the administrative allocation as permitted under the grant funding agreement to cover its own staff costs. No funding has been allocated to cover staff time for Gedling Borough Council.

- 1.5 As part of the service it is envisaged that the Customer Journey support role will be delivered by Nottingham Energy Partnership ("NEP"). However, this is yet to be confirmed. Once a provider has been formally appointed, their details will be shared for information. Should a different provider be selected, this will be communicated accordingly. The Council is asked to signpost customers and grant related queries to NEP and to promote the project via the Council's website and social media channels.
- 1.6 Entering into this partnership will ensure efficient use of resources are allocated by partners and allow the Council to focus resources on other activities.

2 Proposal

2.1 THAT the Portfolio Holder:

- 1) Gives approval for the Council to enter a partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council for the Warm Homes Local Grant, in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of section 25 of the Council's constitution.**
- 2) Notes that the Council will sign under seal a letter of authorisation setting the terms of the partnership.**

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The Council does not enter into the partnership and administers the funding and delivers the project itself within existing resources: The Council does not have any dedicated resource to deliver household retrofit schemes so this work would need to be delivered in addition to other services provided by the Council. By joining the Nottinghamshire County Council along with a number of other district councils, the resources can be pooled using economies of scale to employ dedicated staff to oversee the scheme. The Council would not have sufficient resources to replicate this level of service in-house without allocating and using additional resources.

As per paragraph 3 of the letter of authorisation, Nottinghamshire County Council cites the resource constraints of several districts/boroughs as a rationale for offering this partnership.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The council's role in the partnership will be to:
- monitor the progress of the service
 - promote the service via the website and social media platforms
 - Sign post customers and residents to the service

The above roles will be delivered using existing resources at the council and the partnership will result in low income and low energy performance households accessing energy efficiency improvements to their homes funded by a Government Grant.

- 4.2 As outlined in paragraph 1.6 entering this partnership scheme will ensure efficient use of financial resources.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 This proposed arrangement with Nottinghamshire County Council constitutes a Partnership under paragraph 7.2 of Section 25 of the Council's Constitution. Under that paragraph, approval is required to allow the Council to enter into a Partnership and therefore, as set out in the report, approval is sought from the Portfolio Holder.
- 5.2 The authorisation letter sets out the terms of the Partnership and confirms that the County Council will bear the responsibility of complying with the funding agreement; contracting (and therefore compliance with the

Procurement Act 2023 and Subsidy Control); project management including allocating sufficient resources to the project; as well as auditing and as such, will take on the associated risks. Should approval be given, the Council will sign the authorisation letter under seal as required under the Constitution due to the value of the grant allocation.

- 5.3 If the Council were to attempt to administer the funding and deliver the scheme itself using existing resources, this would place additional pressure on several Council departments. It is not clear whether the Council has sufficient capacity and resources to deliver the project to its full potential or whether it would have the ability to adhere to all of the terms of the funding agreement.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications as a result of the council entering into this partnership however the council will encourage partners delivering the service where possible will ensure fair and equitable access to the service within the resources available. It is envisaged that there is high demand for these services exceeding the budget available so partners will be encouraged to ensure disadvantaged communities and individuals can access the service.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no sustainability issues as a result of entering the partnership however once the service is being delivered it will lead to home energy efficiency improvements which will reduce home energy costs and associated carbon emissions. The success of the scheme will be monitored via progress reports to the council, the funder, and central Government.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Warm Homes Local Grant authorisation letter

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 This partnership aims to contribute towards the following outcomes:
- PLACE – to enable a safe, attractive, clean and culturally vibrant borough that plays its part to tackle the climate emergency.
 - Housing – Individuals and families can access high quality,

affordable and energy efficient housing to bring to life
neighbourhoods

- **COMMUNITY** – to enable a resilient, empowered, connected,
inclusive and healthy community

Poverty and the Vulnerable – financially vulnerable residents are
supported through our welfare services and community partnerships.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer