

## Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	Submission for Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme: Fast Followers Competition.
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Keith Darvill, Cabinet Member for Climate
<b>SLT Lead:</b>	Sandy Hamberger – Assistant Director of Policy, Performance & Community
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Nick Kingham E:Nick.kingham@havering.gov.uk T: 01708 432896
<b>Policy context:</b>	Havering Climate Change Action Plan Opportunities: Helping Havering businesses grow, coordinating funding and addressing climate change
<b>Financial summary:</b>	The bid will be for funding over two years and will allow the project work to be undertaken to help move the borough towards net zero. All anticipated costs are within the grant bid.
<b>Relevant OSC:</b>	Places OSSC
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	Yes, it is a Non Key Decision by Officer

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**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

People - Things that matter for residents	(X)
Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy	(X)
Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.	(X)

## Part A – Report seeking decision

### DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Assistant Director of Policy, Performance & Community is requested to agree to:

1. Submit a bid to the Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme: Fast Followers Competition.

### AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Constitution part 3.3, SLT Members - financial responsibilities paragraph c

In consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to apply for, accept and manage external funding up to a limit of £500,000 per grant in support of any function within their Directorate provided that any financial contributions by the Council are made from within existing budgets.

### STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

An opportunity for local authorities to apply for a share of up to £6 million to build skills and capabilities to accelerate local progress towards net zero has arisen. This opportunity has an imminent closing date of 11am on 1 March 2023.

The Net Zero Living Programme provides support to local authorities, their partners and communities to overcome non-technical systemic barriers to the scaling and adoption of net zero solutions. The Fast Followers funding opportunity will form part of a Net Zero Living Innovation cohort that will have access to training, specialist advice and resources provided by Innovate UK and partners, and apply these skills to turn their ambitions into deliverable plans.

These awards are aimed at local authorities who have high net zero ambitions and have senior-level buy-in, but are constrained by a lack of resources or skill sets to kick start innovative net zero programmes.

Officers believe that this opportunity fits with the work already undertaken in relation to tackling climate change and the cost of living crisis and would neatly support the ambitions of Havering to attract inward investment and work more closely with local businesses.

This bid will be in the region of £250,000 to £300,000 and will fund some or all of the following :

- A Senior Level post for 2 years reporting through the Resources Management structure (this may change as the TOM is developed to deliver the project)
- Commissioning external support to facilitate and coordinate behaviour change
- Funding for a conference to share the learning
- Events to link skills with businesses

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- Events and external support to coordinate the many initiatives in Havering to tackle climate change in respect of the cost of living pressures and residential accommodation
- Commissioning external support and capacity to model the required investment to deliver net zero
- Commissioning support to amend or update the functionality of the data warehouse.

This project proposes to develop and implement a coordinated and evidence-based model that will link the power of the Council, local businesses and the community to the opportunities to invest in energy efficiency improvements. The project will specifically focus on the decarbonisation of the Borough's housing stock, which has been identified as the second least energy-efficient in London (ONS) and a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions (BEIS, (now BIS, (Department for Business, Innovation & Skills) and DECC, (Department of Energy and Climate Change)). Havering's experience to date of government investments in decarbonisation, for example the Green Homes Grant, has demonstrated very clearly that delivering a complex programme in a large urban area is fraught with problems. There are substantial non-technical gaps which undermine the investment made locally, regionally and nationally. These include the inter-connectedness, complexity and programming of supply chains of skills and resources, and also the lack of understanding by residents of the measures available and their benefits. Innovation and a methodical approach is imperative to addressing these non-technical challenges.

The timing of the Fast Followers Programme is ideal to support the delivery of significant area-based change. By working together with residents, community hubs, local businesses, colleges and other partners, Havering aspires to create a sense of climate optimism and through doing so, deliver the strategic commitment made by the Council's leadership to take action on climate change.

The ingredients for success: none of us are as good as all of us – taking climate action is a textbook case of a problem which can only be successfully dealt with if everyone takes action which, in this case, means all stakeholders in a locality.

The project will focus on the three key objectives of behaviour change, using data to drive evidence-based decision making and the co-ordination of skills and supply chains. The funding will be used to convene a range of business partners, local colleges and community representative organisations who currently work independently to contribute to the Council's climate ambitions. Brokering new relationships will lead to a shared understanding of the barriers faced in delivering the residential infrastructure change needed through developing and aligning efforts to a common problem. This will be facilitated by nationally recognised experts who, in turn, will increase their understanding of the difficulties of delivery.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Do not submit a bid

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**PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

The decision to apply for funding has been limited by the short window of opportunity but a range of organisations have expressed their support for the approach. The Lead Member has been appraised of the evolving bid application.

**NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER**

Name: Nick Kingham

Designation: Corporate Projects Manager

Signature: Nick Kingham

Date: 21 February 2023

## **Part B - Assessment of implications and risks**

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

This report seeks approval to apply for external competition funding. The Council must ensure that it complies with all of its obligations under the terms of the grant agreement.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The final bid amount is yet to be set but will be between £250000 and £300000. If successful the funds will be utilised over 2 years for the purposes set out in this report. There are no anticipated additional costs relating to this project.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

The acceptance of this funding will require the recruitment or secondment of a role to undertake the duties. The recruitment and any people associated implications will be in line with Council policies and processes.

### **EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The proposal will benefit all communities to improve the insulation of their homes.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

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### **CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

This application would assist the Council in understanding the level of investment required to decarbonise the Borough. It will also inform the Borough's inward investment understanding of the growing green economy.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Havering Climate Change Action Plan

## **Part C – Record of decision**

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

### **Decision**

**Proposal agreed**

*Delete as applicable*

### **Details of decision maker**

Signed



Name: Sandy Hamberger

Cabinet Portfolio held: Assistant Director of Policy, Performance & Community

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

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**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_