

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Dr Arif Rajpura - Director of Public Health
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Jo Farrell - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Community Health and Wellbeing Councillor Jane Hugo - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Helen Thompson – Senior Procurement and Projects Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	7 March 2023

Provision of a Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Delivery Partner for Domestic Energy Initiatives

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To confirm the outcome of the recent tender exercise undertaken for the provision of a Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Delivery Partner for Domestic Energy Initiatives for Blackpool Council and a number of Local Authorities within Lancashire.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve Rhea Projects Ltd as the supplier for the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Delivery Partner for Domestic Energy Initiatives for Blackpool Council and a number of Local Authorities within Lancashire.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 A formal tendering exercise was undertaken between December 2022 and February 2023 to select a supplier for the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Delivery Partner for Domestic Energy Initiatives for Blackpool Council and a number of Local Authorities within Lancashire.

The Council tendered through their electronic portal (The Chest) in a 1 stage process. 6 tender responses were received back from:

- A & M Solutions Ltd (Rainford, St Helens)
- AgilityEco Service Ltd (Sutton, Surrey)
- ECO Simplified Ltd (Sunderland, Tyne and Wear)

- Labells Care Service Ltd (Ainsdale, Merseyside)
- Rhea Projects Ltd (Blackburn)
- Yorkshire Energy Services CIC T/A YES Energy Solutions (Halifax, Yorkshire)

The submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of representatives from Public Health, Home Energy Officers from Blackpool, Blackburn, Lancashire, Lancaster and Preston Councils and moderated by Blackpool Council's Procurement Team.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool Council working on behalf of other Lancashire Local Authorities through the Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group (LHEOG) have tendered to appoint a partner to deliver all domestic energy efficiency initiatives under the CHiL brand.

In particular CHiL looks to support those households in fuel poverty and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home but also aims to provide an offer to all households, not just those in fuel poverty.

It is anticipated that the contract will commence 1st April 2023 and will run for 2 years with the option to extend for a further 1 year + 1 year.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

N/A

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The process was undertaken in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement. The Council and each individual Local Authority will enter into their own agreements with Rhea Projects Ltd.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 N/A

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 N/A

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The cost of providing this service will be met by any fees generated from funding agreements and any management fees included within funding secured from other sources. The Council will not pay for any element of this service.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 If the contract is not awarded, it would result in cessation of delivery of affordable warmth measures across Lancashire. This would impact on:

- Provision of emergency heating installations for vulnerable residents with cold related ill health at the worst time of the year, putting them at risk of deteriorating health, possible emergency hospital admission, or even morbidity
- Provision of planned replacement heating installations for other vulnerable residents putting them at risk of deteriorating health and general wellbeing
- Non-delivery on existing contractual funded schemes
- Reputation of CHiL as a vehicle for successful delivery

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The supplier has already signed Blackpool Council's Supplier Charter.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of representatives from Public Health, Home Energy Officers from Blackpool, Blackburn, Lancashire, Lancaster and Preston Councils and moderated by Blackpool Council's Procurement Team.

The Head of Procurement, Energy and Exchequer Services has remained informed throughout the process.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve Rhea Projects Ltd as the supplier for the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Delivery Partner for Domestic Energy Initiatives for Blackpool Council and a number of Local Authorities within Lancashire.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 Rhea Projects Ltd provided the most economically advantageous tender, which also fully met the requirements of the service.