



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

**1. Subject and details of the matter** (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

This Officer Decision Record (ODR) relates to the delivery of the Governments Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Great British Insulation Scheme which focuses on supporting low-income, vulnerable and fuel poor households through installation of wall and loft insulation and heating measures. The scheme aims to reduce fuel poverty, home energy bills and in the long-term, reduce carbon emissions.

The Government committed support for low-income and fuel poor households in their strategy to reach net zero by 2050. The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order), or the "ECO4" scheme, covers the period from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2026.

The ECO1 scheme was undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The ECO2 scheme was undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and was further extended to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and was referred to as ECO2t.

ECO3 scheme commenced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2018 and was completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and has subsequently been replaced by ECO4. The Government have committed to a four-year successor scheme which covers the period from April 2022 which will end in March 2026.

The LA will not hold the funding for this scheme. The total value of the project in North East Lincolnshire will be dependent on the number of referrals received, households meeting the required criteria and the number of measures required.

It is proposed the LA invite all 15 Eco suppliers to tender for a partnership agreement to assist in the provision of an insulation scheme to private sector households and to partner with the Council in the delivery of ECO 4 and the proposed Great British Insulation scheme from August 2023 or sooner. The LA will be a referral partner to the supplier and will not be responsible for holding funds. The successful utility company would deliver through their own contractors and sub-contractors. Adopting this delivery method offers the reassurance that contractors have been approved and vetted to be competent installers by the utility company. The Council would be aware of the appointed installers and have the ability to monitor the quality of works. The use of one utility company, allows for an increase in the measure mix of installations available to the property.

Having one utility provider would enable a clear marketing strategy and would be easier for the residents of North East Lincolnshire to understand who the provider is. All referrals for the scheme would go through the one provider with systems in place to manage the referral process. The utility company will be able to provide reassurance on the available contractors to deliver the project.

## **2. Decision being taken**

The decision is for the Council to proceed to invite all 15 Eco suppliers to tender for a partnership agreement to assist in the provision of an insulation scheme to private sector households and to partner with the Council in the delivery of ECO4 and the proposed Great British Insulation scheme from August 2023 or sooner.

Also, for the Council to agree to progress with the Flex element once capacity is available to deliver the scheme with our partner.

## **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

Approve the decision to instruct the successful utility company to provide a single point of contact for ECO4 (Energy Company Obligation 4) /GBIS (Great British Insulation

scheme) approve for the borough and provide energy efficiency improvements to residents within North East Lincolnshire. Measures could include loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation, internal wall insulation and upgrade of heating systems.

The scheme will target the lowest energy rated properties and residents living in fuel poverty within the borough with low or no cost to themselves.

#### **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

Option 2 - Deliver a scheme whereby the local authority approves the Flex documents for local and nationwide installers to deliver schemes through any utility provider for residents in North East Lincolnshire.

This approach allows for a greater supply of contractors to deliver the service, removes the need to procure the scheme allowing the scheme to launch sooner.

However, monitoring the quality of the works by the various installers would be more problematic and could risk a reduced quality of works. Residents may be offered different measures by different providers which could cause confusion, making it more complex to market the scheme. Multiple applications from different contractors for one property will increase administration time. There is an increased risk that contractors may run out of funding leading to contractors favouring easy to install cost measures.

Option 3 - Partner with North Lincolnshire Council to jointly procure a single provider. The joint authority scheme is no longer available as North Lincolnshire Council have advised, following consultation with their procurement and legal teams this is not something they wish to pursue and will carry out their own procurement exercise.

#### **5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

None

#### **6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons.**

No

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

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**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision being taken is appropriate for a scheme of this nature. A robust approval process with clear criteria and regular reviews is good practice. A clear marketing strategy will provide openness and transparency.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this decision.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

If recommendation approved:

Low Risk

- 1) Identify the most vulnerable households
- 2) Residents are not eligible for the scheme
- 3) Quality of work

Mitigation

A large marketing campaign would be held with the utility provider on various platforms to target the most vulnerable groups. Having received a referral, the application is reviewed and approved by two employees to ensure the criteria is met. A robust approval process and to ensure quality of works regular quality inspections and progress meetings with the contractor and review with residents' satisfaction forms.

**12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

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**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Carolina Borgstrom

Title: Director of Economy,  
Environment and Infrastructure

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 27/07/2023

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr Phillip Jackson

Title: Leader and Portfolio Holder for  
Economy, Net Zero, Skills and  
Housing

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023