

**OFFICER DECISION RECORD**

<b>Decision Title:</b> Local Energy Advice Support
<b>Decision reference number:</b> 05.10.22
<b>Decision date:</b> 26 October 2022
<b>Background / reason for decision:</b> People are struggling to stay warm and pay their bills. In 10 months, residents' energy bills have almost doubled. Supported by the Unitary Authorities, local energy advice organisations help residents across the West of England. They are experiencing unprecedented demand due to the energy and cost of living crises impacting our region.
<p><b>Options considered:</b> <i>(as relevant/applicable)</i></p> <p>Option 1 – do nothing. Without financial support this winter, these local services would not cope with demand from West of England residents. Some residents would not know how to stay warm and improve the energy performance of their home, and many would not have access to local support in keeping warm and energy bills down during the energy crisis</p> <p>Option 2 – To provide financial support to local energy advice organisations and raise awareness, to ensure West of England residents have access to local energy advice over this winter (2022/23)</p>
<b>Decision:</b> Approval to West of England Combined Authority Officers to invest up to £150,000 from the Green Recovery Fund in providing additional financial assistance to local energy advice organisations; and sending a mailout to all West of England residents to raise awareness of support available and tips to save energy
<b>Consultation:</b> West of England Combined Authority officers have and will continue to consult with Unitary Authority officers and local energy advice organisations to determine what additional funding is required to resource enquiries and gain their expert input on the mailouts' contents.
<p><b>Officer making decision:</b> Patricia Greer, in consultation with Unitary Authority Chief Officers</p> <p><b>Position:</b> Chief Executive, West of England Combined Authority</p>
<b>Report / appendices / background documents:</b> Energy Advice Support CEO Report.docx