

**OFFICER DECISION RECORD**

<b>Decision Title:</b> Local Energy Advice Extension
<b>Decision reference number:</b> ENV_2023_0003
<b>Decision date:</b> 29 November 2023
<p><b>Background / reason for decision:</b> Funding was approved at Committee in March to extend the Local Energy Advice Pilot by £165,000. This decision and accompanying Paper provides the detail Environment Directors have approved regarding how this funding is invested, making use of underspend from the Pilot.</p> <p>This Extension seeks to resource the provision of freephone energy advice for households in the West of England to provide advice and referrals on handling their energy bills and suppliers; advice on low and no-cost measures and behaviours to save energy; and advice and referrals on financial and other support services for those in or at risk of fuel poverty.</p>
<p><b>Options considered:</b> Not progressing with this funding extension was not considered; given there is still a need for this advice in the West of England, and the principle of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority resourcing this was approved this year at Committee.</p>
<p><b>Decision:</b> To fund £208,716 towards Local Energy Advice Extension to resource freephone energy advice for households in the West of England</p>
<p><b>Consultation:</b> Local Authority offices within Bath &amp; North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire councils were all consulted in developing and designing the details for the Paper accompanying this decision.</p>
<p><b>Officer making decision:</b> Roger Hoare</p> <p><b>Position:</b> Director of Environment, West of England Combined Authority</p>