

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BIDDING OFFICER1. Purpose of report

To request the establishment of an energy efficiency bidding officer, within the structure of the capital works team. This is to provide urgent ongoing support to the current team, so the Council can apply for a range of government energy efficiency and decarbonisation grants for residents, tenants and the Council (eg Local Authority Delivery Grant, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Housing Upgrade Grant).

2. Background

The capital works team is responsible, predominantly for the delivery of the HRA capital programme, as well as a handful of General Fund capital schemes. As a result of the government's ambitious environmental sustainability agenda, the government is regularly promoting a number of capital grants, recently these have included Local Authority Delivery Grant, Social Housing Decarbonisation Grant and the Housing Upgrade Grant.

The Council is required to bid for these capital grants, and therefore an additional post is required to focus on developing bids for these additional capital grants, and ensuring that the Council's bids are high quality and meet the government's timelines.

Given the capital works team workload, it would not be possible, to absorb the additional energy efficiency bidding work within the existing staffing structure. Another alternative would involve using external consultants for the developing the bids, however this would be more expensive and the Council would not develop its own in-house bidding expertise.

3. Financial implications

This would be a new proposed post leading on bidding for increasing number of government energy efficiency and decarbonisation grants for residents, tenants and the Council. The funding of the post will be met from the additional capital secured through the government energy efficiency and decarbonisation grants. A job description and person specification for the post will be developed, and the post evaluated through job evaluation. Based on broad estimates, it is expected the salary costs will be approximately £40,000.

4. Union Comments

UNISON would support the creation of this role. It will provide support to existing resources to ensure that the Council is able to apply for grants and access funding. This will also contribute to the Council's Green Futures campaign and climate change agenda, which is fully supported by the union.

UNITE echo Unison's comments and fully support the creation of this role.

Recommendations

Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the role of an additional energy efficiency bidding officer be approved.

Background papers: Nil