

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) Delivery1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to terminate an existing contract for the delivery of ECO4 funded works to private sector housing within the Borough and to implement a new approach.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the existing contract be terminated and implementation of the proposed approach detailed in the Appendix, be approved.

3. Detail

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and the Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) are government energy-efficiency schemes in Great Britain, designed to tackle fuel poverty and help reduce carbon emissions. Both schemes run in their current form until March 2026.

ECO4 and GBIS are obligations placed on energy companies to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises. The schemes are not grant based. It is up to the energy companies to determine which retrofit projects they choose to fund, the level of funding they provide and the installers that they choose to work with. The funding is therefore paid directly from the energy company to the installer; not to the Council or resident. The Council's role with the ECO4 and GBIS schemes is to check and issue declarations for eligibility of applicants. This report relates to the delivery of ECO4 and GBIS to the private sector (owner occupiers and private renters).

4. Key Decision

As ECO4 and GBIS delivery will be Borough wide, this report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There is a cost to the Council in managing this service with the use of Officer time and resources within the Capital Works team. The proposal to implement a charge of £50 to installers for each application submitted would generate a nominal but useful income stream to contribute towards these costs. The impact of the proposed charge would be monitored and a suitable nominal income budget added as part of the budget setting process for 2025/26.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

It is important to terminate the contract in line with the termination clauses of the contract to ensure the Council are not in breach of contract terms and to allow a smooth termination process. Legal services are able to assist with drafting the termination letter.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Not applicable.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.