

Appendix

Proposed Approach:

The Council signed an agreement with EON in summer 2023 for the delivery of ECO4 funded works to owner occupiers and private tenants. Under this agreement EON would develop a resident engagement strategy to engage with residents and appoint an installer to deliver ECO4 funded works within the Borough. This agreement was subsequently updated in summer 2024 to include GBIS. Enquiries regarding ECO4 received by the Council could be referred to EON for assessment. However, it is considered that the Council would be better placed to achieve its aims if the current contract were to be terminated and the following approach be adopted. For information, under the terms of the contract, termination can be invoked with three months' written notice.

Installers interested in delivering ECO4 and GBIS works within the Borough will be invited to on board with the Council. This process will include obtaining copies of certifications, insurances and policies. All installers on boarded would have to be registered with the Government endorsed quality standard Trustmark. A data sharing Agreement will also be implemented. The list of on boarded installers will be published on the Council's website with contact details for local residents to make contact direct. Installers will be issued with copies of the Council's application forms. Annual checks will be conducted to ensure the information the Council holds about an installer remains up to date (i.e. insurances).

Currently, it is the installer's responsibility to complete the application forms and obtain the necessary financial evidence to support the applications. The installers then submit the application for checking and sign off by the Council. If the application meets the eligibility requirements, the Council will issue a declaration confirming eligibility to the installer and record and report the application to OFGEM.

This service is being managed within the Capital Works team. The on boarding and application process along with queries generated about the scheme takes up Officer resources. As the funding goes directly from the energy company to the installer, this is costing the Council Officer time without any revenue income. It is proposed to implement a £50 charge across all installers for each application submitted. This would be charged to the installer and not the resident/ applicant. This revenue would support the cost of Officer time. The number of applications that the Council will receive is not yet known, but as an example if the Council received five per month, this would result in revenue income of £3,000 over the course of a year. Other local authorities have taken a similar approach and are charging installers for the checking of applications and issuing declarations. The Agreement with the existing supplier, also had a £50 charge per application written into the contract.