

**CABINET**  
**3 APRIL 2014**

**DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL LED BID TO DECC GREEN  
DEAL COMMUNITIES LOCAL AUTHORITY FUND – UPDATE**

*In accordance with Standing Order 48(4)(b) the Chairman has agreed that this report be considered by Cabinet as urgent business, in order to update Members on the outcome of a bid for external funding and to seek Cabinet endorsement of the Managing Director's decision that Dartford act as the Accountable Body and agreement to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with DECC.*

1. Summary

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on a successful bid made to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) by the Housing team (supported by E3 consultants) for £4,026,855 in funding towards delivering Green Deal initiatives.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members welcome the successful bid.
- 2.2 That Members endorse the Managing Director's decision that Dartford Borough Council act as Accountable Body for the grant funding and authorise the Managing Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

3. Background and Discussion

In October 2013 DECC invited Local Authorities (LAs) to bid for £1m to £3m to help drive Green Deal (GD) energy efficiency improvements in their area. LAs were asked to come forward with ambitious and innovative proposals to deliver Green Deal Plans to as many properties as possible in target street/areas.

Following discussions internally, and as part of the wider Kent & Medway Green Deal Partnership it was agreed that DBC, supported by E3 (acting as consultants) would lead and compile a bid that included domestic and commercial properties in the east of the Borough but also include Sevenoaks & Dover District Councils supported by Kent County Council.

The proposals were to be judged on a number of criteria including:

- The number and total value of Green Deal Plans to be delivered.
- Their sustainability in the long term (i.e. beyond DECC funding).
- Their credibility e.g. LAs will need to demonstrate that they have secured Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding to complement Green Deal Plans under their Green Deal Communities bid, and to have specifically identified the street/ areas targeted.

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### 3.1 Focus agreed for our bid:

Residential focus:

- Dartford town centre (Portas Pilot area) and surrounds
- Farningham, South Darenth, Horton Kirby
- West Kingsdown
- Ash
- Hartley and Hodsoll Street
- Eynsford

Significant non-residential element:

- Civic stock and assets
- Community buildings
- Commercial premises

### 3.2 The planned outputs of our bid:

The DBC lead offer in Dartford and Sevenoaks targeted:

- 1100 residential properties planning to use ECO and DECC GD Communities funding;
- 300 residential properties planning to use ECO and GD cashback funding;
- 500 properties planning to use ECO and alternative contributions;
- 110 non- residential GD plans.
- Commercial & Civic Owned assets.

### 3.3 Community engagement – the basis of the bid

The delivery of the bid is based firmly on the principle of community engagement, using a “bottom up” approach. In this way the bid, amongst other benefits, will:

- Add value to the ongoing economic regeneration of Dartford Town Centre.
- Develop local economic growth and job creation with network of local contractors.
- In association with the Kent Health and Affordable Warmth Strategy help to alleviate fuel poverty.
- Increase the provision for apprenticeships and training of young people.

### 3.4 The current state of the bid

The Secretary of State’s decision (28 March 2014) on the Dartford Borough Council’s Bid is that he will in principle grant the funding of:

- £ 3,812,455 of Green Deal Communities funding;
- £ 86,100 to be spent to deliver free or subsidised GD Assessments on the first target street/s;
- £ 10,000 to be spent cost effectively on show homes on the first target streets;
- £ 118,300 for the Installer Training element of GD Communities.

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### 3.5 Current and future activity

The grant funding will be provided on condition of a written confirmation by the 4 April of the proposed ECO funder, the GD Providers (if they are to be specified), and a final record of the bid in a format provided in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU has to be finally completed and signed by the 14 April.

Officers are currently working with bid partners to provide the information required and sign off the required paperwork, by the set deadlines, in order to receive the grant funding.

The Managing Director has agreed that, as lead bidder, it would be appropriate for this Council to act as Accountable Body.

Once received a joint project team will be formally set up and ongoing delivery, actions, monitoring and evaluation targets will be devised and set for the duration of the project.

Both DBC management team and Cabinet will be kept informed of progress as the programme is rolled out.

#### 4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

4.1 This report relates to aim of 'reducing carbon emissions'.

#### 5. Financial, legal, staffing, administrative implications & risk assessments

Financial Implications	<p>The majority of the grant funding received will be used to deliver projects that do not directly affect the Councils Financial position, but it's possible some expenditure may benefit civic owned assets.</p> <p>The main financial implication is the agreement of the Council to be the Accountable Body for the funding. Financial aspects of this include: ensuring that the grant is used for proper purposes, keeping records for 10 years, giving information as requested and complying with state aid rules.</p> <p>It will therefore be necessary to ensure the correct accounting treatment for this arrangement and that services are procured in accordance within the legal framework.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>The Council will be required to comply with the terms of the funding arrangements as set out within the MOU. It will be necessary to ensure that back to back arrangements are in place with any third party providers</p>
Staffing Implications	<p>The project can be accommodated within existing staff resources, primarily oversight by Head of Housing and engagement/promotion</p>

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	activities by the Environmental Promotions Officer.
Admin Implications	None as a direct result of the report.
Risk Assessment	<p>Becoming accountable body introduces an element of risk and it will be important to ensure that back to back arrangements are in place with any third party providers, and also to ensure that the Council are not required to pay out any more funds that they receive (and keep) from DECC.</p> <p>Officers will ensure adequate agreements are in place to mitigate risk to the Council as detailed above.</p>

6. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Green Deal DECC Press Release

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date / File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
		Peter Dosad	Housing, External Services	None