

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

#### OFFICER DECISION WRITTEN RECORD

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
Subject Matter:	Contracting National Energy Foundation (NEF) as managing agent for the management and delivery of the Warm Homes:Local Grant (WH:LG) programme in East Herts.
Date of Decision:	
Exempt/Confidential information (Yes/No):	No
If Exempt/Confidential – reason why:	N/A
Name of Officer taking decision under delegated authority:	Jonathan Geall, Director for Communities
Source of delegated authority (constitution/express delegation/etc):	<p>The Director for Communities is acting in line with the decision of Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 that <i>'the Council accepts central government's allocation of £1.5m Warmer Homes: Local Grant funding, thus adding it to the council's capital budget and <b>enabling officers to contract with a suitably experienced organisation to distribution home energy efficiency grants to qualifying households</b>'</i>. [Emphasis here added.]</p> <p>The Director for Communities is the appropriate decision-maker given that the responsibility for environmental sustainability, and thus the allocation of</p>

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
	WH:LG funding, falls within the Communities directorate.
Exercise of delegated authority approved by: <i>(if different from Officer taking decision)</i>	n/a
Decision:	Commission the National Energy Foundation (NEF) as managing Agent for the management and delivery of Warm Homes:Local Grant (WH:LG) programme in East Herts.
Reason(s) for Decision:	<p>At its meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Council agreed to accept the offer of £1.5m from central government from the national Warm Homes:Local Grant programme to provide an estimated 102 domestic retrofit grants to qualifying residents.</p> <p>Council came to this decision having received the following information.</p> <p>Warm Homes: Local Grant (WH:LG) is a UK government initiative designed to improve the energy efficiency of homes, specifically for low-income households.</p> <p>East Herts Council has been allocated £1.5 million under the WH:LG initiative to fund energy efficiency retrofit measures to eligible homes in the district across the coming three years.</p> <p>Given the significant size of the allocation, Council is being asked to accept the allocation and, in doing so, allow it to be added to the council's capital budget. This will in turn enable officers to contract with a suitably experienced organisation to distribute home energy efficiency grants to qualifying households.</p>

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
	<p>Officers are looking to use an existing framework agreement developed by Watford Borough Council to engage the National Energy Foundation (NEF) to deliver this scheme. The council has a good working relationship with NEF, an independent charity focused on improving the use of energy in buildings, with regard to the delivery of other energy efficiency schemes.</p> <p>This decision records the letting of the contract to the National Energy Foundation (NEF) as referenced in the report to Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p>

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
Details of alternative options, if any considered and rejected:	<p>Internal delivery – NOT RECOMMENDED because the council does not have the required capacity or capability to deliver a scheme of this scale or technical scope.</p> <p>Do not commission NEF and instead commission another supplier – NOT RECOMMENDED because other suppliers under the Domestic Retrofit and Associated Environmental Improvement Services in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire Framework were considered and rejected on the basis of NEF being able to provide the best value along with their expertise in this field.</p> <p>Reject the grant and not participate in the WH:LG programme – NOT RECOMMENDED because Council agreed to accept the grant at a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p>

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
	Commission NEF – RECOMMENDED for the reasons outlined in this report.
Name of Officer who has confirmed with all Members involved in taking this decision whether they have pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest:	Jonathan Geall, Director for Communities
Name(s) of any Member who has removed himself/herself from contributing to this decision because of a conflict of interest:	N/A
Signature of Decision Maker (where decision is taken in consultation with a Member):	REDACTED
Signature of Member consulted by Decision Maker (where decision is taken in consultation with a Member):	n/a – officer decision to enact Council decision of 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025

### **SIGNATURES TO BE REDACTED**