

North Yorkshire Council

Assistant Director of Environmental Services and Climate Change

16 May 2024

Independent Sector Care Homes Decarbonisation Audits: Project delivery and Procurement Pathway

Report of the Climate Change Strategy Manager

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the proposal to commission decarbonisation audits for North Yorkshire Council (NYC) independent sector care homes utilising Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Decarbonisation Theme funding.
- 1.2 To request approval by the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and Climate Change, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Resources – Health and Adult Services of the proposed procurement pathway options.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The SPF funding of £50,000 for this project has been approved by the SPF Business and Low Carbon Thematic Group and outlined in the Theme Grant prospectus. This has been 'live' from September 2023. The programme is outlined in the Prospectus at appendix A.

3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 After considerable engagement with the independent care home sector and project development, this project was approved for delivery through the SPF Decarbonisation theme process with a budget of £50,000. It has to be delivered by February 2025.
- 3.2 Delivery is led by the Climate Change team in the Environment Directorate, supported by the Service Development team in the Health and Adult Services Directorate. The common aim is to identify and recommend how energy consumption in the independent care sector can be reduced to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce energy bills and potentially the cost of care provision. (Both improving business resilience and reducing NYC care costs).
- 3.3 The original intention was to provide a business sustainability audit for up to 30 independent care providers produced by an appropriate consultant. This was to include analysis of the property, the fleet and the circular economy opportunities for each business. A budget of £50,000 is allocated to this. 13 businesses have applied for the audits through the SPF application process and are awaiting contact from our appointed consultant.
- 3.4 After an extensive review of the consultancy supplier market with Procurement Service colleagues it became evident that there was no single consultant that would undertake the wider sustainability audit and the specification was therefore amended to include just a property audit and carbon footprint analysis. Following review of pricing information received from a consultancy on an NYC framework, it was apparent that the budget was insufficient to cover this reduced proposal and therefore agreement was obtained from the SPF Business and Low Carbon theme group to reduce the outputs to 13 audits.

- 3.5 Further procurement options are now being considered as the NYC framework agreement consulted has now expired:
- i. To request a quote from Align Property Services to undertake the property elements of the project and then to appoint a consultant to undertake the carbon footprint analysis via an appropriate procurement process.
 - ii. To request access to the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero hub technical assistance framework to identify alternative consultants.
- 3.6 It is proposed to consider these two options and to select the most appropriate and expedient route.

4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 4.1 Engagement with the Independent Care Group and the SPF Business and Low Carbon Theme group has been undertaken in the development of the programme.

5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The programme delivers the following specific Council Plan ambitions:
- Place and Environment:
 - A clean, environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit
 - Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of our communities.
 - Economy
 - Economically sustainable growth that enables people and places to prosper
 - New and existing businesses can thrive and grow
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - People are supported to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles
 - People can access good public health services and social care across our different communities
 - Organisation
 - A carbon neutral council

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The alternative is not to deliver this programme. This was discounted as the programme has been in development for over a year and this is the culmination of that work. There are 13 properties across North Yorkshire that are awaiting the decarbonisation audit process. The project is unique nationally and there is no alternative funding for this type of activity.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The project utilises previously approved SPF budget of £50K. There is no requirement for NYC match funding. Once the procurement of the property-based audits has been undertaken the remaining budget will be utilised for the carbon footprint analysis procurement.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Any contracts entered into will be prepared or fully reviewed by the Council's Legal Services and will be in accordance with both the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules. If relevant, contracts will also comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and any other legislation.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this programme.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The programme is designed to deliver the NYC Climate Change Strategy through provision of advice which may lead to retrofitting of the properties. (7(a)i in the Strategy).

11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The project will deliver the SPF Decarbonisation Theme and enable NYC and the independent care home sector to better understand their decarbonisation pathway.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That the proposal to commission decarbonisation audits for North Yorkshire Council (NYC) independent sector care homes utilising Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Decarbonisation Theme funding is noted.

12.2 It is recommended that the Assistant Director - Environmental Services and Climate Change, in consultation with the Assistant Director – Resources (Health and Adult Services) approves the project delivery and the procurement options.

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