

## Report of the Director of Place

External Funding Panel – 5 April 2017

### OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide details of the Bid for Welsh Government Warm Homes Arbed Funding 2017-18 for Sandfields Renewal Area.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	1. Local Housing Strategy. 2. Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptations: Policy to Provide Assistance 2012-2017. 3. Statutory declaration of the Sandfields Renewal Area approved by Cabinet on the 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2014.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance, Access to Services.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The Bid for Welsh Government Warm Homes Arbed Funding 2017-18 for Sandfields Renewal Area is approved by the External Funding Panel.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Mark Wade
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Jayne James
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Phil Couch

#### 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide the External Funding Panel with the background regarding a Welsh Government Warm Homes Arbed Funding bid for 2017-18 for the Sandfields Renewal Area. Due to a very short timeline for bid submission imposed on the council by Welsh Government, the bid has already been submitted, after advice being sought and permissions obtained from Director of Place, Head of Housing and Public Protection and Cabinet Member of Next Generation Services to submit the bid, with an External Funding Panel report being provided in retrospect.

#### Background

- 1.1 Arbed (Welsh for 'save') is the Welsh Government's (WG) strategic energy performance investment programme helping meet commitments to reduce climate change, help eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development and regeneration in Wales.

- 1.2 In previous years Swansea has successfully bid for and received Arbed funding for home energy efficiency measures in Clydach, Pontarddulais, Hafod, Morriston, Waun Wen and previous phases of the Sandfields Renewal Area programme.
- 1.3 The latest round of Arbed funding called 'Welsh Government Warm Homes' (WGWH) has been announced to support local authority led area-based energy efficiency schemes, maximise the number of homes improved and lever in funding from other sources such as the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) to maximise investment.

### **Bids**

- 1.4 One bid per Local Authority was permitted for submission by the 17th February 2017. A maximum of 60 properties will be funded. All money must be spent by the end of March 2020.
- 1.5 Bids must focus on deprived areas, properties in close proximity to one another with low energy efficiency. There is no match funding requirement but bids must show opportunity to lever in funding from other sources, support the Welsh economy in employment/training terms and have effective project management arrangements in place.

### **Suitability of the Sandfields Renewal Area**

- 1.6 Sandfields is a Council declared Renewal Area. It has high concentrations of poor house condition, low incomes and fuel poverty levels. Renewal Area status means detailed house condition information about properties in Sandfields is already available. This information will facilitate swift mobilisation and delivery of works.
- 1.7 A number of funding streams are in place but the Renewal Area programme in Sandfields requires additional funding to help meet its stated objectives. Resident awareness of the scheme is high and this should promote good participation rates should the bid be successful.
- 1.8 Works for the 2017/18 financial year will be project managed by the in-house Renewal Area team.
- 1.9 The detail above, in conjunction with the information set out in the background papers, means the Sandfields Renewal Area is appropriate to be put forward as a funding bid.

### **Other areas considered**

- 1.10 Other geographical areas were considered as part of the bid selection process. The Sandfields area was deemed the most appropriate on the basis of the points raised in this report.

- 1.11 Sandfields is the strongest bid based on the stated WG bid assessment criteria.
- 1.12 Further Arbed bids will be invited by Welsh Government during the Warm Homes Arbed programme period from 2017 to 2020. Future phases of the Sandfields programme and other geographical areas will be considered for future funding bids.

**Recommendation:**

- It is recommended that the Bid for Welsh Government Warm Homes Arbed Funding 2017-18 for Sandfields Renewal Area is approved by the External Funding Panel.

**2.0 Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 2.1 A screening tool has been completed and confirms that an equality impact assessment (EIA) is not required.

**3.0 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The cost of the scheme will be £749,000, the funding bid is for £664,000 Welsh Government Warm Homes funding, with a further £35,000 ECO utility company funding expected to be secured and a further £50,000 Sandfields Renewal Area funding contribution towards the cost of the works.
- 3.2 The £50,000 Sandfields Renewal funding towards the cost of the works is funded from current Renewal Area income from residents contributions towards the cost of works and previous energy efficiency programme funds.

**4.0 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The schemes detailed are in line with local authority powers to provide assistance contained in the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 and the Councils published Policy.
- 4.2 The Council will need to ensure that it complies with any terms and conditions attached to this Welsh Government grant funding.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 - EFP1 document.  
Appendix 2 - NGA1 document.  
Appendix 3 - Welsh Government Warm Homes Bid document.