

# CAPITAL INVESTMENT BRIEFING NOTE FOR PASSPORTING FUNDS



Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

**SCHEME SUMMARY:** *(Provide a brief paragraph outlining the current situation. Explain the details of the proposal and how the proposal will address the issue)*

A new government funding package has been secured which will improve the energy efficiency of homes in Plymouth. Plymouth City Council partnered with housing associations LiveWest and Plymouth Community Homes to bid for funding from the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The government has allocated £800m to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund as part of a multibillion-pound, three-year investment in the decarbonisation of heat and buildings.

Plymouth City Council bid has been successful in securing £967,404 of investment in homes in the city which will be matched by both housing associations. The money will be spent on upgrading two social housing schemes in the city (83 homes), Furse Park (LiveWest) and Alcestor Close (PCH) currently below Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C. This funding will help to deliver warm, energy efficient homes and reduce carbon emissions and fuel bills, as well as tackling fuel poverty and supporting green jobs.

**STRATEGIC CASE:** *(How will this proposal meet corporate priorities? Explain how the project delivers or supports delivery of Plymouth Plan / Joint Local Plan Policies (including policy references))*

These upgraded homes will contribute to the reduction of carbon required for Plymouth to meet its Net Zero by 2030 goal.

This work was also outlined in our 2022 Climate Emergency Action Plan in action 3.18 – 'Work with social housing providers to apply for funding from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, to lower the carbon emissions, reduce fuel bills and improve the comfort and health of over 100 households in the city.'

**OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS:** *(List the outcomes and benefits expected from this project)*

**Financial outcomes and benefits:**

£15,000 of the Admin and Ancillary costs will go to PCC for administration (legal, financial) and coordination of the project. This will contribute to the Low Carbon officers project management time.

**Non-financial outcomes and benefits:**

83 vulnerable households in Plymouth will undergo extensive energy and building fabric upgrades to improve their homes comfort, efficiency and reduce their fuel bills and vulnerability. This will also contribute to PCC's Net Zero goal by 2030.

**KEY RISKS:** *(Identify the risks, level of risks and measures in place to mitigate the risks)*

There are minimal risks to PCC as we are not delivering the projects. PCC will coordinate the reporting to BEIS and pass port the grant funds to Plymouth Community Housing and LiveWest. LiveWest and PCH should be responsible for any risks or liabilities that arise from the project work itself. This will be outlined in our agreement with PCH and LiveWest. PCC will coordinate monthly update meetings, and reporting protocols in order to mitigate any risks that may arise to interfere with regular reporting to BEIS.

The risk element in receiving the grant is low:

- It is 100% externally funded and as such there is no impact on existing PCC budgets.

**MILESTONES AND DATES:** *(delivery timescales)*

The funds are to be awarded as soon as possible and the projects will be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March of 2023.

**FUNDING:** *(Include : PCC accountable body status, passporting funding to the provider, who is responsible for delivery, back to back funding agreement, ongoing PCC revenue implications)*

PCC will coordinate the reporting to BEIS and pass port the grant funds to Plymouth Community Housing and LiveWest on a schedule adhering to the grant funding agreement between PCC, PCH and LiveWest (to follow).

Plymouth Community Homes – Will improve 26 homes  
LiveWest – Will improve 57 homes.

Plymouth City Council £15,000 – Grant administration costs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:

- Approves the briefing note
- Allocates £967,404 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by a grant from BEIS Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Approves the transfer of the funds in accordance with the back to back funding agreement and delegates the approval of the agreement to the Service Director for SP&I.