

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: 2 SEPTEMBER 2021
title: APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY GRANT TO HOMEWISE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT – HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To request Committee consider payment of a quarterly grant payment to Homewise towards provision of the home improvement service in the borough.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To address the housing needs of all households in the borough and support the vulnerable.
- Corporate Priorities - None
- Other Considerations - None

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Homewise have provided housing, affordable warmth and memory matters advice along with a home improvement service in the borough since 2014.

2.2 This service is valuable to anyone who is vulnerable in the borough, and they offer a wide range of assistance. The service was originally commissioned by LCC and funded through the Better Care Fund. However, this funding was withdrawn March 2020.

2.3 A grant payment of £5,760 to Homewise is included in the annual budget. Homewise send an invoice to the Council at the end of each quarter for part of the total £5,760 grant which includes details of the activities undertaken within the Borough during each quarter. Attached at Appendix 1 is the quarterly report from Homewise setting out the services delivered across the borough within quarter 1 of 2021/22.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Homewise is a Registered Charity, dedicated to improving the homes and quality of life of older and disabled people. They provide advice, support and assistance to elderly, disabled and vulnerable people whether the own their own home or rent their home. Their aim is to help people to remain warm, safe and secure in their home. They offer a handy person service, minor adaptations service and memory matters service assisting households with dementia and enabling them to remain in their own home as long as possible.

3.2 In 2019 Homewise entered into a Grant Agreement with the Council in respect of this annual grant agreement. Such an agreement was not entered into in 2020 due to the pandemic however such an agreement will be entered into this year if Members are minded to approve payment of the grant to Homewise.

3.3 The 2019 Agreement set out the following requirements in respect of the grant:

- The Provider (a Home Improvement Agency) is assisting the Council in meeting its strategic priorities detailed in the Council's Housing Delivery Plan.
- The Provider will provide a comprehensive, impartial help and advice service on all aspects of home improvements, adaptations, energy efficiency, repairs and maintenance to residents within the Council's area.
- The Provider will give specific and additional support to older, disabled and vulnerable individuals and householders.
- The Provider will work with the Council to assist in the delivery of specific initiatives in relation to the Project (eg Affordable Warmth Grants).

3.4 All of this information is provided via quarterly monitoring information to the Council.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The home improvement agency is a valuable service for all older and vulnerable household's in the borough.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Homewise provide a wraparound service for vulnerable households and will always aim to support the household to stay in their own home.
- Political – The service is well respected and trusted in the borough.
- Reputation – Homewise have an established reputation in the borough and with partners.
- Equality & Diversity – Essential we can signpost vulnerable households to a reliable service.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Subject to completion of a grant agreement to consider the request to approve payment of a grant for upto £5,760 to Homewise to be paid quarterly following receipt of an invoice and the quarterly monitoring information

RACHAEL STOTT
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 3235.

INTEGRATED HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES - MONITORING INFORMATION	2021-2022	Number of	Value of
DISTRICT - RIBBLE VALLEY	April to June 2021	Completed jobs	work
Total number of enquiries, resulting in:			
Number of Core Completed Jobs including Fundraising/Value of work	28	28	£16,753.90
Number of ongoing cases	40		
Advice and support only	7		
Number of Handyperson jobs/Rep Off Homecare/Security		26	£1,520.70
Handyperson jobs	12		
Security	3		
Repair Officers - Homecare full costs	11		
Affordable Warmth	0		
Number of minor adaptations (non structural) completed (as listed below)		34	£2,502.27
Joinery/Plumbing	1		
Bannister rails	1		
Landin/grab rails	32		
Floor/ceiing pole	0		
Number of minor adaptations (structural) completed (as listed below)		29	£3,255.49
Steps/Other	13		
Outside rails	16		
Memory Matters - number of people/families supported	27		
TOTALS	191	117	£24,032.36
Client satisfaction - Ribble Valley 100% reponses	100.00%	found the service	Excellent
	0.00%	Very good	
	0.00%	Good	