

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023  
title: APPROVAL OF ANNUAL 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 approve the annual 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 However this funding was withdrawn March 2020.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 annual report from Homewise setting out the services delivered across the borough in 22/23.

## 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 they 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 Homewise have annually entered into a Grant Agreement with the Council in respect of this annual grant agreement.

3.3 The Agreement sets 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, Dementia grant and Home safety 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 Approve payment of the annual grant of £5,760 to Homewise to ensure continuation of the valuable service.

RACHAEL STOTT  
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

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DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

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