

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	14 February 2024
SUBJECT: PURPOSE:	Funding for Good Homes Alliance Pilot To accept and approve the use of Better Care / Disabled Facilities Grant funding received from Lincolnshire County Council to fund and host the Lincolnshire Good Homes Advice & Casework pilot.
KEY DECISION:	Yes
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor William Gray. Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing
REPORT OF:	Emily Spicer. Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership
REPORT AUTHOR:	Stuart Horton. Strategic Housing Manager, SELCP
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report presents a summary of the partnership project between the Centre for Ageing Better (CFAB), Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire District Councils to develop a Good Home Alliance (GHA) in Lincolnshire.

It explains how elements of the Alliance are being progressed and recommends support is given to progress the project's themes, specifically funding East Lindsey District Council's contribution to and hosting of a 2-year advice and casework pilot service across Lincolnshire that is central to the approach.

This funding has been received by the Council from the Government via Lincolnshire County Council, as part of Better Care / Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding for the provision of adaptations the Council receives annually.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

1. Accepts the additional allocation of £177,969 Better Care / Disabled Facilities Grant funding for 2023/24 received from Lincolnshire County Council;
 - a. Approves the use of £112,844 to contribute funding to a 2-year Good Home Alliance Advice & Casework pilot, funded via contributing Lincolnshire District Councils and County Council; and
 - b. Approves the use of £65,125 remaining additional BCF/DGF funding for 2023/24 to support the delivery of DFG and, where appropriate, Discretionary Housing Financial Assistance.
2. Approves the hosting of the proposed 2-year Advice and Casework pilot on behalf of the Good Home Alliance funding authorities, inclusive of the recruitment of up to four (4) 2-year fixed term Advice and Casework Officers (in line with available funding) and the retention of the existing Healthy and Accessible Homes (Housing) Lead role for 2 years; and

That subject to the Executive Board approval of recommendations 1 and 2 above, the Executive Board recommends that:

3. Full Council accepts £340,965 funding from Lincolnshire County Council to fund the 2 year pilot service, inclusive of the £112,844 ELDC contribution; and

That subject to the receipt of additional external funding contributions, that the Executive Board recommends that:

4. Full Council delegates approval to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing, to accept up to £145,035 in additional external funding contributions to support the delivery and expansion of the Advice and Casework pilot throughout 2024/25 - 2026/27. Bringing the total available funding for the 2-year Advice and Casework pilot to £486,000 across 2024/25 – 2026/27.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

A Good Home Alliance advice and casework pilot would help our residents, especially owner-occupiers who are older and vulnerable, to maintain their homes. This will benefit our community's health and wellbeing and should lead to considerable cost saving to the public purse. Additionally the Centre for Ageing Better will continue to work with Lincolnshire Councils to fund an evaluation of the pilot. This will provide invaluable information and evidence on the benefits of the service to residents, the savings to the public purse and other operational learning to support the service being permanently delivered.

Lincolnshire County Council support the use of this additional Better Care / Disabled Facilities Grant funding to support the Good Home Alliance advice and casework pilot as set out within section 2 of this report.

The additional funding's purpose is to support the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants and where appropriate Discretionary Grants.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 1) To allocate the total additional Better Care Funding (**BCF**) / Disabled Facilities Grant (**DFG**) funding for 2023/24 received from Lincolnshire County Council to support the delivery of DFGs and where appropriate, Discretionary Housing Financial Assistance.

This option does not deliver against the ELDC commitment to support the delivery of identified actions within the Lincolnshire Homes for Independence Blueprint for people to live independently, stay connected and have greater choice in where and how they live.

This option does not support the continued development of the work that has been undertaken between the Centre for Ageing Better (**CfAB**), Lincolnshire County Council (**LCC**) and all Lincolnshire District councils to deliver against a key recommendation of the CfAB Good Home Inquiry “- placing a duty on local authorities to ensure every authority has a local ‘Good Home Agency’, a public-facing hub providing access to information and advice, finance schemes, and a range of home improvement services including maintenance and repair, accessibility adaptations and energy retrofit”

- 2) Development of a specific ‘Good Home’ information and signposting website only.

This option only partially delivers against the recommendations of the CfAB Good Home Inquiry, and risks leaving vulnerable residents without access to necessary support where they lack the capacity or capability to resolve identified housing condition related issues for themselves.

This option is also not recommended as there will still be a requirement for continued support and development to ensure the web-based resource remain up to date and of value and does not allow for a period of testing and ongoing refinement post site launch.

- 3) Host the Good Home Alliance Advice and Casework pilot within an alternative Authority, or delivery partner.

This option is not recommended at present due to the pilot nature of the service, available timescales to deliver and evaluate the pilot activities, and other recommissioning activities underway across the County.

ELDC is identified as the recommended host authority due to the level of funding being contributed by ELDC, representing 23% of the total 2-year funding, and the wider South and East Councils Partnership (**SELCP**) contributing almost 40% of the total proposed pilot funding.

A full options appraisal is included at **Appendix 1** for other identified hosting options, including:

- LCC or other District Hosted
- Voluntary Sector Hosted
- Wellbeing Service Hosted (note – this option remains a potential preferred option following evaluation and ongoing service delivery recommendations)
- Do nothing.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Centre for Ageing Better, Lincolnshire County Council and all Lincolnshire district councils have been working together to look at how to support more people to improve the condition of their homes to help improve health and wellbeing. This project brings together Lincolnshire's ambition to support people to live independently, stay connected and have greater choice in where and how they live.
- 1.2. This has focused on the development of a Good Home Alliance in Lincolnshire to provide a high profile example for the rest of the country in line with one of the recommendations from the Good Home Inquiry to ensure every authority has a local public-facing hub providing access to information and advice, finance schemes, and a range of home improvement services.
- 1.3. Following detailed design of the service model, the Housing, Health and Care (now Housing Health and Ageing Well) delivery group has agreed the next steps for implementation in Lincolnshire. Including:
 - Developing the Good Home Alliance. Connect to Support webpages to provide a wide range of information on how to maintain and improve your home.
 - Developing a Healthy Home Assessment form to enable residents and professionals to identify potential hazards and areas of improvement within their home.
 - Establishing Energy Advice Demonstrators to provide advice to residents on energy efficiency.
- 1.4. These themes are currently in progress, with an aim to launch to the Good Home Alliance webpages and resources from April 2024.
- 1.5. Additionally, subject to the agreement of funding, the Housing, Health and Ageing Well delivery group has agreed to support a 2-year pilot advice and casework service to:
 - Triage referrals and act as the main point of contact for referrers and residents
 - Provide advice and practical support to help residents improve their homes
 - Liaise with relevant organisations to resolve housing condition issues for residents
 - Help residents to access any available funding to undertake works; and
 - Provide a holistic response to issues facing residents, helping them to access a range of other services and to undertake improvement works to their homes.
- 1.6. It is estimated a pilot with 3 to 4 caseworkers would provide advice and support to up to 1,500 referrals a year, with an evaluation of the health, social and economic impact of the service commissioned by the Centre for Ageing Better to identify the next steps to establish the service in a sustainable way to meet the identified need.
- 1.7. The service would be provided by telephone and email to limit costs with home visits completed when appropriate.

- 1.8. The proposed cost of the pilot is £486,000 over the two year period (2024to 2026)
- 1.9. In 2023, the government announced in the Next Steps to put people at the Heart of Care that it would be investing an additional £102million for the DFG to increase the level of housing adaptation support available in local areas, saying:
- “Local housing authorities already have flexibilities to use their DFG funding to fund supplementary services that are agile and help people stay independent, support hospital discharge and make minor adaptations. There are lots of examples of local authorities already doing this effectively - for example, through the commissioning and delivery of Home Improvement Agencies. We want to encourage local authorities to use this additional funding to provide more of these supplementary services...”
- 1.10. In September 2023, Lincolnshire received the first allocation (2023/24) of this funding via an additional Disabled Facilities Grant determination. In total, the districts received an additional £608,768. A further allocation is expected in 2024/25 in line with the 2023/24 allocations and to be received via the core DFG funding determination.
- 1.11. The grant determination letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) has provided further guidance of the use of this funds; including:
- the DFG is capital funding for the provision of home adaptations to help eligible older and disabled people to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes.
 - Local housing authorities are encouraged to use this additional funding in an agile and responsive way to supplement the core delivery of DFG, in line with the powers as set out within the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002 to provide a wide range of home adaptation services to further help people to live independently, if they develop and publish a Housing Assistance Policy.
 - Policies can include measures to speed up DFG delivery, for example, simplified systems to provide small-scale adaptations more quickly. They can also help to deal with access issues, enable rapid discharge of people from hospital, or prevent admission to hospital or residential care
- 1.12. Lincolnshire County Council support the use of this additional funding to support the Good Home Alliance advice and casework pilot as set out within section 2 of this report.

2. REPORT

2.1. The implementation of the Good Home Alliance (**GHA**) project is split into two phases:

1. Phase 1. Information & signposting: web-based platform providing good quality information people they can use themselves; and
2. Phase 2. Advice & support: 2-year pilot providing advice & casework for the most vulnerable.

2.1.1. Information and signposting

- 2.1.1.1. The public facing aspect of the GHA is to be provided through the development of a Good Home Hub, known locally as Good Home Lincs.
- 2.1.1.2. The Good Home Hub provides Lincolnshire residents of all ages, tenures and need, with access to information and signposting to services to help maintain a healthy home, undertake home improvements, and consider all options for current and future housing needs.
- 2.1.1.3. Hosted on the Lincolnshire Connect to Support website, the dedicated Good Home Lincs. web pages will provide a one stop shop for this information, as well as hosting an online 'Healthy Home Assessment' for individuals to use to identify housing condition issues, solutions and signposts to advice and services available to assist, including undertaking works independently and self-funding options.
- 2.1.1.4. These work streams are currently funded and in progress, with webpages and assessment form expected to launch in early 2024.

2.1.2. Advice and support

- 2.1.2.1. For those who are less able to utilise aspects of the information and signposting provision, due to vulnerabilities associated with, for example, ageing, disability or accessibility, the GHA will also provide an advice and casework service to support people to:
 - Provide information and advice on all options
 - Signpost and refer to services
 - Help to keep homes warm and energy efficient
 - Help find trusted tradespeople to undertake works
 - Help to commission works
 - Help to identify financial solutions; and
 - Provide practical support (such as helping people to move to a more suitable home).
- 2.1.2.2. Funded by both Lincolnshire County and district council contributions, the advice and casework service will be accessible to all Lincolnshire residents who require additional support to resolve their identified housing issues.

2.2. The pilot is proposed to commence in 2024/25, and run through to 2026/27. Positions will be recruited on a fixed-term contract (FTC) basis for up to 24 months however, to allow for sufficient on boarding, training, evaluation and endorsement of any proposed recommendations for ongoing service delivery, the advice and casework team is proposed to operate and accept referrals for a period of 18 months.

2.3. An indicative timeline for the pilot recruitment, delivery and evaluation periods is provided below.

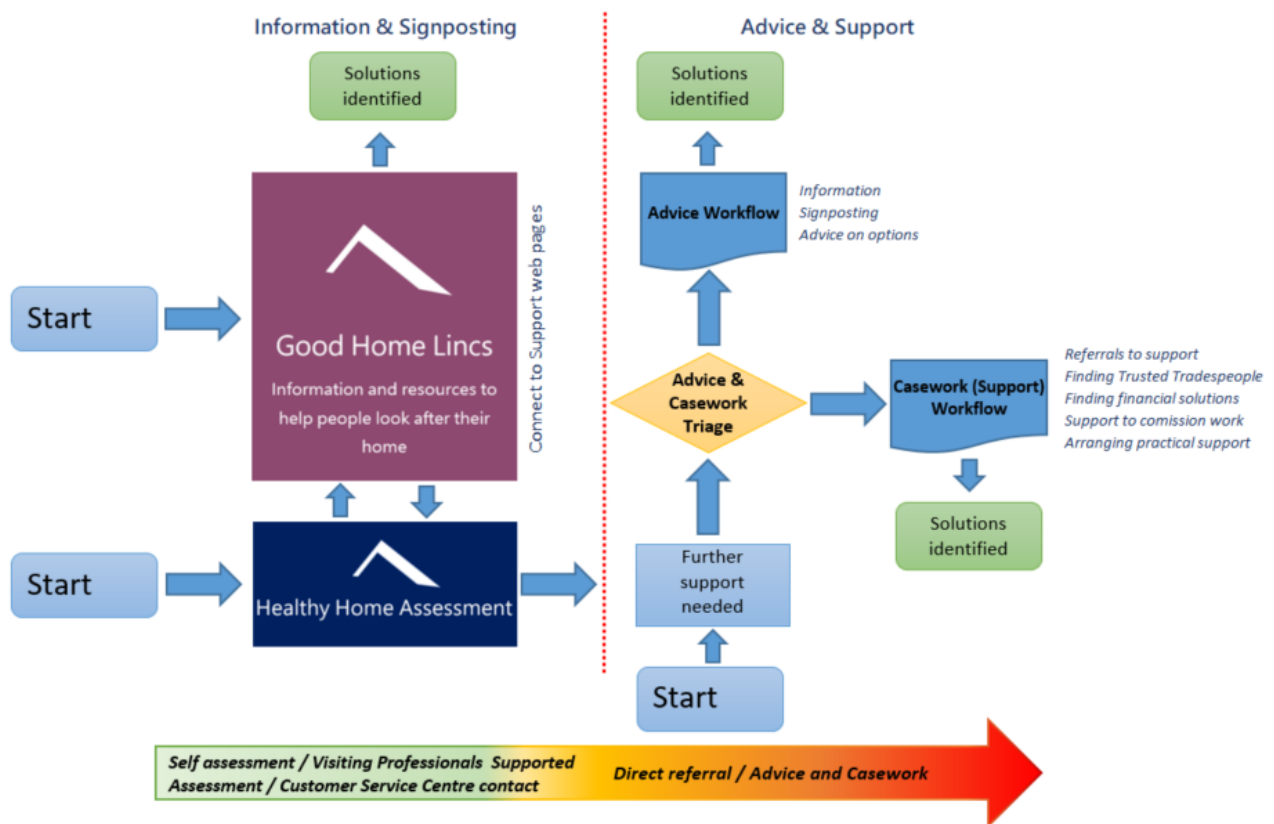
2.4.

Fig 1. Indicative activity timeline

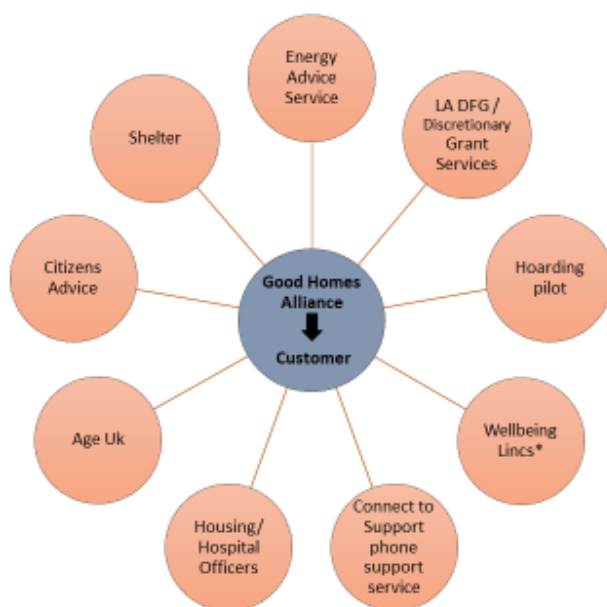
Activity	Delivery year							
	Year 1				Year 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Advice & Caseworker recruitment & selection	◆							
On boarding, induction and training	◆	◆						
Pilot - Operational service delivery period		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Pilot – Wind-down and case closure								◆
CFAB – Evaluation period	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Recommendations for ongoing service provision								◆

2.5. The diagrams below shows how the ‘Good Home Alliance’ information, advice and casework approach is envisaged to work with the information allowing many households to resolve their need themselves, escalating to the provision of advice if required, and finally casework for the more complex cases where the householder is likely to be elderly or vulnerable. The GHA will work with other statutory and voluntary organisations across the county to coordinate advice and casework depending on the range of need.

Fig 2. Good Home Alliance service pathways



Related advice services



- Funding already available to pilot an Energy Advice Service (+ additional funding bid being made to Midland Net Zero Hub) - £120k available from HELP for energy work & £100k offer from ICB for home energy works
- DFG Service already working well across the county, with possible future potential to extend for “able to pay”
- Hoarding pilot has funding & is currently being designed with Hoarding UK - £120k from Mental Health Transformation funds
- Wellbeing Lincs already working well across the county (*included here for their normal referrals, not providing a GHA specific pilot)

2.6. The minimum resources required to deliver the proposed advice and casework pilot to help understand the level of need and demand has been scoped, based on the potential number and type of cases officers could reasonably respond to, and includes:

- Extending the current Lincolnshire Healthy & Accessible Homes (Housing) Lead role (currently employed by Boston Borough Council) for a further two years. This role will manage the service and drive the development of all the elements of the Good Home Alliance. They will also have editorial responsibility for the website content, help to deliver training, and continue to develop stronger relationships with the range of key partners.
- Recruitment of up to 4 Good Home Alliance Advice and Casework Officers to deliver the pilot described above.

2.7. The formula used for the contribution each district makes towards the cost of the pilot is in line with the Disabled Facilities Grant funding allocation each of the Lincolnshire district councils receives from the government via Lincolnshire County Council. Lincolnshire County Council have also agreed to contribute £100,000 revenue funding to the pilot which reduces each of the districts contribution, as set out below.

Table 1 – Pilot funding contributions

Council	Contribution
Boston	£35,007
East Lindsey	£112,844
Lincoln City	£47,140
North Kesteven	£50,379
South Holland	£42,735
South Kesteven	£53,962
West Lindsey	£43,933
Lincolnshire County Council	£100,000
TOTAL	£486,000

- 2.8. This can be met from the additional allocation of Better Care / Disabled Facilities Grant funding provided by government recently of £177,969 which is in addition to East Lindsey's current yearly allocation of £2,039,523.
- 2.9. The Better Care Fund (BCF) narrative for 2023-25 includes details of the potential GHA pilot as part of the broader strategic approach and sets out the expected wider health and wellbeing benefits. This was agreed by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted to the Department for Health and Social Care. Use of DFG funding to support this would meet BCF outcomes and the context of the People at the Heart of Care White Paper which promotes joined-up approaches to meeting people's needs to support more people of all ages to live in suitable housing so they can stay independent for longer. Creating a home environment that supports people to live safely and independently can make a significant contribution to health and wellbeing.
- 2.10. The Lincolnshire Home for Independence blueprint (which is referenced in the BCF narrative) includes four actions;
- Understanding needs and opportunities (the evidence base and business case for investment in housing services as preventative);
 - Helping people with care and support needs;
 - Helping people remain in their current home; and
 - Helping people move to a suitable home.

The scope for how DFG funding can be used includes to support any expenditure incurred under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO), enabling the use of DFG funding more flexibly to help people live independently. The People at the Heart of Care White paper, which announced the additional funding for 2023/24, stated that the funding was intended to support supplementary services that are agile and support people to stay independent. A key function of the casework role would be to support hard to reach and vulnerable individuals to access funding provided for in the district's housing assistance policies to support the wider aims of helping people remain in their homes where appropriate or moving to an alternative home where not appropriate.

- 2.11. To date, funding contributions has been approved from Boston Borough Council, South Holland District Council, North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, totalling £228,121. Inclusive of the proposed ELDC contribution of £112,844, the total current available funding to support the pilot is £340,965.
- 2.12. Other Lincolnshire districts are currently taking through their decision making processes. The total available additional funding if all districts approve is £145,035, and would enable the recruitment of up to additional Advice and Casework Officers to provide the service across the County / all funding districts.
- 2.13. The total cost of the pilot has been calculated to be £486k (£243k per annum), based on all funding authority contributions being approved and received.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. Significant work has already been progressed by partners in Lincolnshire to engage with the public and other organisations across the county. The findings from this consultation and research has been used to inform the themes a Good Home Alliance would need to address to assist our residents, especially owner occupiers who are older and vulnerable, to maintain their homes. This will benefit our communities and also lead to significant cost saving to the public purse.
- 3.2. The Lincolnshire Good Home Alliance will support households, depending on their level of need and ability, by working with other services and organisations across the county to form a coordinated service. This work is already starting to bear fruit with the production of Joint Delivery objectives for Children and Young People Asthma between Housing and Lincolnshire NHS.
- 3.3. If funded the advice and casework pilot will benefit from the Centre for Ageing Better commissioning an evaluation of the project to help monitor and understand the health, social and economic benefits of the work as well as informing future development of the service so that, if successful, options for its continuation and mainstreaming can be considered.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Good Home Alliance casework pilot will support the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Strategic ambition of improving the Health and Wellbeing outcomes for all communities.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

As mentioned the Good Home Alliance advice and casework pilot will help improve access to information, advice and support in relation to housing to our residents which will help improve health and wellbeing.

The advice and casework pilot may increase demand for discretionary housing financial assistance and the new Lincolnshire Discretionary Housing Financial Assistance is progressing through the formal adoption process for each district.

No implications on staffing are currently foreseen. The Accessible Homes Team structure across the South East Lincs Council's Partnership has been approved and is being implemented. This will provide additional capacity to progress and deliver both mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants and Discretionary Grants / Financial Assistance.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The pilot helps to support and contribute to the following corporate priorities within the Partnerships Councils:

Boston Corporate Strategy. Priority 1 – People Focused: “We want Boston to be a place where people want to live, a place where they can thrive in their local communities, feel safe, secure, healthy and welcome”

East Lindsey Corporate Strategy. Strategic Aims: Help enable a supply of homes that meet needs and aspirations, Maximise healthy and active lives, Improve equality of opportunity across the district and in target areas

South Holland Corporate Plan. Priorities: Your Home, Your Health and Wellbeing

STAFFING

Approval to host the pilot staffing within the Partnership at ELDC will increase the existing staffing establishment by up to four full-time equivalent Advice and Casework Officers, and require these positions to be evaluated, advertised, recruited and on boarded.

In addition, approval to extend the existing Healthy and Accessible Homes (Housing) Lead will require the existing contract to be extended or position recruited to provide going operational team management.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

Standard HR recruitment processes, payroll activity and IT support. Additional line management capacity is provided via the proposed extension to the existing Lincolnshire Healthy and Accessible Home (Housing) Lead, which does not currently have any direct reports.

As mentioned the Accessible Homes Team structure across the South East Lincs Council's Partnership has been approved and is being implemented. This will provide additional capacity to cope with any increased demand for both mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants and Discretionary Grants / Financial Assistance arising from the Good Home Alliance advice and casework pilot.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Commencement of the pilot will be subject to a formal agreement between the participating councils.

DATA PROTECTION

The case management system (**CMS**) to record advice and casework referrals is currently being identified as part of the GHA project service development activity, however, is likely to utilise an existing CMS (such as the 'Mosaic' social care CMS) and will follow established data protection policies and procedures for the collection and recording of client information.

FINANCIAL

This report seek Executive Board approval to accept the additional allocation of £177,969 Better Care / Disabled Facilities Grant funding for 2023/24 received from Lincolnshire County Council; and

1. approve the use of £112,844 to contribute funding to a 2-year Good Home Alliance Advice & Casework pilot; and
2. approve the use of £65,125 remaining additional BCF/DGF funding for 2023/24 to support the delivery of DFG and, where appropriate, Discretionary Housing Financial Assistance.

At present there is an underspend of the DFG/Better Care Funding allowing the pilot along with the Discretionary Housing Financial Assistance Policy to be resourced.

Subject to the Executive Board approval recommendations 1 and 2, this report also seeks Executive Board recommendation for Full Council to accept a total of £340,965 funding from Lincolnshire County Council to fund the 2 year pilot service (inclusive of the £112,844 ELDC contribution).

This funding is available from agreed contributing councils (as set out below), and will be received from Lincolnshire County Council.

Council	Contribution
Boston	£35,007
East Lindsey	£112,844
North Kesteven	£50,379
South Holland	£42,735
Lincolnshire County Council	£100,000
TOTAL	£340,965

Subject to the receipt of additional external funding contributions, this report also seeks Executive Board recommend for Full Council delegation to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing, to accept up to £145,035 in additional external funding contributions to support the delivery and expansion of Advice and Casework pilot throughout 2024/25 - 2026/27 as set out below:

Council	Contribution
Lincoln City	£47,140
South Kesteven	£53,962
West Lindsey	£43,933
TOTAL	£145,035

The total proposed funding for the 2-year Advice and Casework pilot is £486,000 across 2024/25 – 2026/27.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is overseen by the Good Home Alliance Steering Group and Lincolnshire Healthy and Accessible Homes Group; and will be updated to incorporate operational service delivery and associated recruitment risks on approval of the pilot, and reported to the Lincolnshire Housing Health and Health Ageing delivery group as part of the overarching project governance.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Between May 2022 and April 2023, ARK Consultancy were employed by the Centre for Ageing Better to work with a project team from the Centre for Ageing Better, Lincolnshire County Council and District Council officers. The purpose of the project team was to engage with residents and organisations across Lincolnshire to understand how more residents could be supported to live in a home that meets their needs and is well maintained.

The project has focussed on older persons households who are homeowners, as households in private rented housing and social housing have established routes of support and enforcement to address property issues. However, they have still been considered and information and advice provided as appropriate.

The process involved:

- Reviewing existing evidence, nationally and in Lincolnshire – for example, the project estimated there are 29,000 owner-occupied homes, 14,600 private rented homes and 4,400 social rented homes in Lincolnshire which do not meet the decent homes standard.
- Engaging with individuals, groups and stakeholders to understand issues and barriers.
- Developing, designing and testing out new solutions.
- Producing a service framework for delivery in Lincolnshire and elsewhere.

The project engaged with stakeholders across Lincolnshire including:

- 1093 responses to community survey
- 68 responses to staff survey
- Over 40 community groups
- Over 250 individuals

Engagement with stakeholders across Lincolnshire resulted in the adoption of the following themes a 'Good Home Alliance' should address:

- **Simplified access to information and services** – A dedicated website (information also available in other forms) would be the core repository for all the collated information, providing a one-stop source for all the relevant information for Lincolnshire, with signposting to other advice services where appropriate.
- **Advice on options** – If the customer needs more support, an advice service and a network of other services would help residents to access further advice and information to assist them to **consider** all options, such as accessing additional casework support to undertake the work or moving to a different home that better meets their needs.

- **Healthy home assessment** – A web based questionnaire would allow residents and services visiting people in their homes to identify any housing related issues, and **understand** their impact and potential causes. It would prioritise issues and signpost to further information and services.
- **Keeping warm / energy efficiency** – The **website** and advice service would provide information on energy efficiency measures and how to seek funding and assistance. For the East Lindsey District area, this work would link into the work already undertaken across the partnership in respect to climate change and energy efficiency.
- **Trusted tradespeople** – The **Trading Standards Buy with Confidence** scheme would allow residents to find trusted tradespeople. Greater levels of information about finding and managing tradespeople would be available on the website and via the advice service.
- **Financial solutions** – A range of financial solutions would be offered. The Alliance would work with partners including housing authorities and ethical lending organisations to develop appropriate solutions for Lincolnshire. An initial focus would be on maximising the impact of the products already offered.
- **Support to commission work** – Depending on the level of the clients need and ability, caseworkers would visit people in their home to assess the work needed, and if necessary produce a **specification** for the work, supporting residents to gain quotes, and helping them to supervise the works.
- **Practical support** – A **network** of local services would help residents to deal with the practical issues which may be barriers to them completing work to their homes or pursuing another option such as moving furniture, clearing rooms and dealing with utilities etc.

A range of potential benefits from improving the condition of homes has been identified as part of the project:

- Reducing falls – every hip fracture costs the NHS over £8,000;
- Reducing hospital stays – each day in hospital costs the NHS over £350;
- Reducing the need for residential care – the County Council pays at least £567 per week for residential care;
- Reducing the need for care packages at home – the County Council pays at least £19.65 per hour for non-residential care; and
- Reducing cold, damp homes – the Building Research Establishment estimates the cost to the NHS of a home with excess cold as over £750 per year.

REPUTATION

The project seeks to assist residents who may require advice and support to maintain their own homes which currently is not available in an easily accessible format. Supporting residents further will positively impact our communities.

CONTRACTS

None, other than associated staff contracts and appropriate agreements between LCC and participating districts.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The information, advice, and casework may improve the security of resident's homes in some circumstances that may have led to previous incidences of crime.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

The pilot is in accordance with the public sector equality duty as it helps advance equality of opportunity in relation to age and disability

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The Good Home Alliance advice and casework pilot is focused on improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Where appropriate the Good Homes Alliance will signpost to and work with the climate change team especially when cases relate to energy efficiency and affordable warmth.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the following Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

ACRONYMS

- *CFAB:* Centre for Ageing Better
- *GHA:* Good Home Alliance
- *SELCP:* South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
- *BCF:* Better Care Fund

- *FTC:* Fixed Term Contract
- *FTE:* Full-time Equivalent
- *CMS:* Case Management System

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	GHA – Advice and Casework – Options Appraisal

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Centre for Ageing Better - Good homes for all: A proposal to fix England's housing	https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/good-homes-for-all-a-proposal.pdf
Centre for Ageing Better – Putting Ideas Into Action	https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Lincolnshire-Good-Homes-Report.pdf
People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Stuart Horton, Stuart.Horton@boston.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Emily Spicer, emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk
Approved for publication:	Councillor William Gray. Portfolio Holder for Communities and Better Ageing