

Update to Action No. 70 (a) –

SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT: REVIEW OF THE CARBON REDUCTION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED CARBON REDUCTION ACTIVITY AT ELDC:

We have previously contracted through Framework routes due to the short timescales that Government makes these grants available on. What we do have is an expectation that the contractors then work to build the local supply chain which has happened – we currently use local scaffolders, air source heat pump and solar PV installers, double glazing providers, asbestos and pest control firms to name a few and are working to onboard and support other local contractors to gain the relevant accreditations required to work on the scheme. We are currently awaiting funding news for Warm Homes – Local Grant but have already started an open tender process for that. The level of accreditation required for these schemes is not always readily available within the local supply chain so it is often necessary to bring on board main contractors from outside of the region who can act as Principal Contractor and then enable small local companies to work alongside them to deliver the scheme. We have over the last 12 months produced a Retrofit Skills Plan which sets out some of the steps that need to happen to build a more robust local supply chain looking at schools/college right through to contractor training and reskilling. If the Warm Homes – Local Grant is successful at the level we have bid for then the Retrofit Skills element over the next three years will be a key focus of that programme.

It must be noted that working on a local authority scheme that is so large in size as what we deliver will always be more expensive than a private installation. The level of compliance that must be adhered to is much greater and then cost of delivery also includes the contractors putting in place on site teams to deliver the programme.

If Cllr Simpson has concerns about quality on a specific install then I would ask him to make contact with me directly so that these can be addressed. We take any concerns very seriously because our unique method of delivery has been designed to ensure that our customers receive the highest level of service and are supported throughout the process.

Sarah Baker - Group Manager - Climate Change and Environment