

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 6 July 2015

**Report Title:** EU Funding Project approval (SHINE)

**Report By:** Andrew Palmer  
Assistant Director Housing and Built Environment

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## **Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for delegated authority to be given to the Director of Operational Services and the Deputy Leader of the Council and Housing, Communications and Equalities Portfolio Holder, to sign a Letter of Support agreeing to enter into a Partnership Agreement to support the EU Funded SHINE (Sustainable Houses in Inclusive Neighbourhoods) project and deliver the associated outcomes.

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## **Recommendation(s)**

1. To give delegated authority to the Director of Operational Services and the Deputy Leader of the Council and Housing, Communications and Equalities Portfolio Holder, to sign a letter of support agreeing to enter into a partnership agreement on the EU funded SHINE cooperation project and deliver the associated outcomes.

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

HBC's involvement in this project will see a total investment of £2.068m (Euro 2.87m) to the town. The funding will be used to support various capital and revenue projects in St Leonards. It will help to reduce carbon emissions from properties and improve the housing conditions of residents living in the some of the worst properties in the town. The initiative will also help alleviate fuel poverty.

The funding application is in partnership with AmicusHorizon and Energise Sussex Coast with HBC co-ordinating the partner activities in Hastings as well as the UK.

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## **Background**

1. Sustainable Houses in an Inclusive Neighbourhood (SHINE) is an EU interreg 2 Seas cooperation project that was greenlit at first stage application in May 2015 and is now being progressed for full application submission by 13 July 2015.

2. If approved in autumn 2015, it will be a 4 year project (Jan 2016 – Dec 2019), involving 13 partners across the Members States of UK, Belgium, Netherlands and France.
3. There are 4 UK partners proposed: Hastings Borough Council, AmicusHorizon, Energise Sussex Coast and Brighton & Hove City Council.
4. The Hastings activity under the project will be jointly undertaken by the Council, AmicusHorizon and Energise Sussex Coast.
5. The total 4 year budget for each of the Hastings partners are as follows (euros):

HBC: Euro 370,164 (£266.5K)

AmicusHorizon: Euro 1,818,949 (£1.31m)

Energise Sussex Coast: Euro 682,840 (£491.6K)

Total: Euro 2,871,953 (£2.068m)

6. The project cost for Hastings Borough Council is approximately £266,518 (.72 conversion rate), with £159,910 coming from the EU grant (60%) and the remaining 40% (£106,607) from a mix of cash and staff match (£20,000 cash and £86,607(over 4 years) from staff match).
7. Hastings Borough Council proposes to lead the activity of the UK partners and the budget allows for the employment of a 0.5 FTE Officer during the duration of the project.
8. Some of the key activities of Hastings partners are as follows:
  - 15 complete refurbished homes in the Coastal Space area to the 'Nearly Zero Emissions' standards (AmicusHorizon)
  - 140 improved in energy efficient home in the St Leonards part of the town (AmicusHorizon)
  - 600 houses (St Leonards): provide energy advice and install 500 energy kit (€561) and 100 smart meters, real time monitoring system (ESC)
  - 16 volunteers trained to provide energy advice and follow on action (ESC)
  - UK Lead Partner work (HBC)
  - Hastings Lead Partner work (HBC)
  - Stock Condition Survey and technical analysis of houses (HBC)
  - Guiding renovations with AmicusHorizon (HBC)
  - Guiding renovation private owners (HBC & ESC)
  - Establishing need-driven local networks (HBC)

## Policy implications

9. Equalities and Community Cohesiveness:
  - a. SHINE directly addresses fuel poverty issues.
10. Environmental issues:
  - b. SHINE will directly reduce the CO2 emissions of the area.
11. Economic/Financial Implications:
  - c. Council spend on this project initiative will leverage in additional funding (60% intervention).
  - d. Additional resources needed for project coordination and administration has been included in the full application budget.

- e. 60% of the cost of permanent staff time assigned to this project will be reclaimable.
- f. Given the grant payment will be in Euros there is an exchange rate risk (project loss or gain) but the exchange used represents the current position.
- g. The permanent staff resource assigned across the project term of 4 years is sufficiently small therefore minimising the risks attached to permanent staff reductions over this period.

12. Organisational Consequences:

- h. Provision has been allowed for an external funded position to coordinate the main activities of this project.
- i. Some permanent administration staff time including finance and legal will be needed for this project and these costs including overheads are in the application budget.

13. Poverty Implications:

- j. SHINE will directly help reduce fuel poverty.

**Wards Affected**

Central St Leonards, Gensing, West St Leonards and Maze Hill

**Policy Implications**

**Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:**

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	X
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	
Environmental Issues	X
Economic/Financial Implications	X
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	X
Local People's Views	
Anti-Poverty	X

**Additional Information**

N/A

**Officer to Contact**

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