

SUBJECT:	<i>Disabled Facilities Grant</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Healthy Communities Portfolio – Cllr Graham Harris</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report, attached as an appendix, was considered by the Cabinet on 6 September seeking approval to increase the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) capital programme for 2016/17 to meet increased demand. This report is to request that Council agrees the following recommendations of the Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council agrees to:

1. Increase the Council's contribution to the overall Disabled Facilities Grant capital programme to £100,000 enabling a funded programme of £546,000 to be delivered in 2016/17.
2. Further increase the Capital Programme to reflect any additional funding received via the Better Care Fund.
3. That, subject to annual review, the Council increases its contribution to the annual DFG programme to £100,000/annum to meet future demand.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The existing budget of £390,000 is insufficient to meet current demand. At the end of June 2016, there was just £100,000 uncommitted but £120,000 of applications ready or nearly ready for approval. There are a further 31 live enquires (estimated expenditure of £400,000) many of which will become due for approval during the course of 2016/17.

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- 2.2 Delaying expenditure to the next financial year may put vulnerable residents and their carers at greater risk of accidents, and will impact on the Council's ability to respond to demand in future years.
- 2.3 The Council's contribution has varied over the last three years, dependant on the level of demand and the funding received from the Better Care Fund and through the Paradigm Housing contribution. This has enabled the council to reduce its Capital budget contribution during 2014/15 and 15/16 for the DFG programme, there being sufficient resources to meet demand. Historically the Council has supported the programme with additional funding of between £45k and £100k.
- 2.4 The increased demand for DFG has arisen due to the increasing elderly and vulnerable population and the removal of a case backlog by the occupational therapy service.

4. Options

Members have the following options:

- i. To agree to increase the Council's contribution to the DFG Grant as recommended by the Cabinet
- ii. To keep the Council's contribution at the current level or make a different increase.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial

The 2016/17 DFG programme of £409,725 is funded through a combination of government subsidy, and a contribution from Paradigm Housing. In 2015/16, CDC was only required to contribute £45k to fund the £390,000 programme. Historically the council has contributed between £60 and £100k to the programme dependant on demand.

5.2 Legal

The Council has a statutory duty to approve applications for Disabled Facilities Grants. The current demand for DFG expenditure exceeds £390,000 budget.

5.3 Social Inclusion

DFG recipients are vulnerable residents who are at risk of accidents and unsuitable living conditions if they are unable to access adaptations.

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

This links to the 'Working towards safe and healthier local communities' aim of the Joint Business Plan 2014-19.

7. Next Steps

If agreed, the capital programme will be amended for 2016/17. The programme for future years will be considered in the usual way.

Background Papers:	None, other than those referred to in this report.
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