

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 JUNE 2020	5
PROCUREMENT OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT EQUIPMENT			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Lancashire County Council (LCC) currently procure equipment which is installed in the homes of Fylde residents through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) process administered by Fylde Council. District councils are due to take over these responsibilities from 1 October 2020 where stairlifts and other lifting equipment are required for adults. This report outlines the steps which are being taken to ensure that procurement can be completed and the new arrangements operational by the handover date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The council work in partnership with Preston City Council to procure DFG equipment such as stairlifts and through floor lifts through the Northern Housing Consortium.
2. A further information report will be provided to this Committee updating on the arrangements that are in place for the procurement of equipment installed in the home of Fylde residents through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Lancashire County Council currently procure DFG equipment and therefore there are no previous decisions relevant to this report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lancashire County Council (LCC) currently procure DFG equipment such as stairlifts and through floor lifts which are installed via the DFG process administered by the district councils and paid for from DFG funding held by the district councils. LCC are under no obligation to carry out the role of procuring this type of equipment and first indicated their intention to withdraw involvement in the process in August 2019 but with no confirmation at that stage when this change would be implemented.

1.2 District councils were informed on 11 February 2020 that LCC would expect the districts to take over these responsibilities from 1 October 2020.

2 Procurement process

2.1 Internal discussions have taken place and concluded that the use of a procurement framework would be the best option to contract equipment suppliers/installers to work with the council. Furthermore, working in partnership with one or more of the other Lancashire districts is likely to achieve better value for money with a bigger contact value.

2.2 As the Council is a Member of the Northern Housing Consortium (NHC), the authority is entitled to free access to NHC procurement service - Consortium Procurement. Utilising this arrangement the authority is supported through the procurement process by a dedicated procurement officer and has access to many standard documents that assist in making the process relatively straightforward.

2.3 Preston City Council have agreed to partner with Fylde Council in undertaking the procurement exercise and as the two authorities share a common boundary, this makes sense for the ongoing delivery of the service.

3 Conclusions

3.1 Once Committee has approved the procurement proposal the housing service can progress to have the necessary framework in place by 1st October 2020.

3.2 A further information report will be provided to this Committee updating on the arrangements that are in place for the procurement of equipment installed in the home of Fylde residents through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Although there are no direct financial implications at this stage the adoption of a robust procurement process will ensure value for money is achieved.
Legal	Procuring through Northern Housing Consortium gives access to frameworks and dynamic purchasing systems that will ensure that the council leverages the benefits of aggregation in its procurement of the equipment. The procurement exercise will ensure that the council has the necessary arrangements in place to meet the statutory obligations associated with the delivery of DFGs.
Community Safety	No implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Ursula Seddon	Ursula.seddon@fylde.gov.uk Tel 01253 658691	1 May 2020

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Overview of Consortium Procurement services (web page)	1 May 2020	https://consortiumprocurement.org.uk/