

## INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HOUSING SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	24 January 2022	14
<b>DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT UPDATE 2022/23</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

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

#### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

This report provides an update on the amended policy approved by Committee in January of 2022

In 2022 a review of the disabled facility grant policy was conducted due to an increased cost of materials, fluctuating fuel costs, and demands on contactors following the pandemic.

#### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Internal Housing Services operation

#### LINK TO INFORMATION

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com))

#### WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

Update on the management of the disabled facilities grant programme in Fylde following amendments made to the policy between 2022/23

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

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## REPORT

### Overview of the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and Adaptation Grants

1. The grants enable eligible applicants to make changes in their home environment, such as the installation of wet room showers, stairlifts and ramps, which allow them to live more independently in their homes.
2. The grants have a key role in reducing admission to hospitals, providing safer and more effective discharge from hospital, preventing an increase in demand for social care and delaying or reducing admission to residential care.
3. Initial customer requests are taken by LCC, and customer assessments are then carried out by occupational therapy teams. Adaptation recommendations are then passed to the council, and we undertake casework support, checking the eligibility of customers, undertaking technical surveys, contractor procurement and monitoring the quality of work.

#### Summary of DFG grant 2021/22

2021/22 BCF allocation received in June 2021	Supplementary funding allocation 2021/22	Progress Housing Association Contribution	Total Better Care Fund Allocation
£1,237,227	£0	£80,000	£1,317,227

#### Summary of DFG grant 2022/23

2022/23 BCF allocation received in June 2022	Slippage & other adjustments	Supplementary funding allocation 2022/23 Match funding	Progress Housing Association Contribution	Total Better Care Fund Allocation
£1,237,227	£166,299	£19,474	£80,000	£1,503,000

4. The Better Care Fund Allocation remained static since 2021 at £1,237,227.
5. From 1/04/2022 and 31/12/2022 the service has awarded £947,258 of the funding. The service is confident that the full BCF allocation will be spent in 2022/23
6. There have been 130 approvals between 1/4/2022 and 31/12/2022 which is an increase on 2021/22
7. Reducing or waiving the fees for children and complex adaptations has enabled us to be more flexible to meet the needs of the customer. Prior to the policy amendments complex cases would often need to complete through two applications or would need to have further funding through discretionary payments. We are currently accessing a third case where we will need to waive the fees.
8. The increase for the maximum grant value to £7000 for a single adaptation was a sensible response to inflating costs with the average cost of a single adaptation falling just below the increase value at £6950
9. Social housing provider For Housing agreed to match fund on an extension contributing £19,473.72 it is the hope that other social housing companies will.

## Background

### Fylde Council Private Sector Assistance Policy, Disabled Facilities Grant

10. Disabled adaptation grants enable eligible applicants to make changes in their home environment, such as the installation of wet room showers, stairlifts and ramps, which allows them to live more independently in their homes.
11. The adaptations brought about by the provision of these grants help to reduce future hospital admissions and assist in reducing the demand for social care. Putting adaptations in place also allows for more effective discharge from hospitals as residents can return to their homes knowing that adjustments are to be/have been put in place.
12. It is common for disabled facilities grant applications to be multi-faceted, for example, to include as a part of the same application ramp access, wet room (or level access showers) and stair or through floor lift.
13. In November 2019, a review of the amendments from June 2018 was required to consider the increase in the number of disabled facilities grant applications, without a corresponding increase in the Better Care Fund allocation. These included:
  - a. For a single adaptation of a value of up to £6,000: The standard means test is carried out and, if the applicant would have a contribution of £12,000 or more towards the cost of the work, they would be ineligible for grant aid.
  - b. For two adaptations up to a value of £10,000: The standard means test is carried out and, if the applicant would have a contribution of £20,000 or more towards the cost of the work, they would be ineligible for grant aid.
14. In 2022, a review of the amendments from November 2019 was required to consider the rise in cost of materials, fuel, and labour post pandemic.
  - a. Reduce fees to 5% for an adaptation for children, and to waive the fees in more complex cases
  - b. Increase the maximum grant value available for a single adaptation from £6,000 to £7,000. For households who are expected to contribute, this will be increased from a maximum of £12,000 to £14,000, depending on the means test.
  - c. increase the maximum grant value available for two adaptations from £10,000 to £14,000. For households who are expected to contribute, this will be increased from a maximum of £20,000 to £24,000, depending on the means test.
  - d. for the council to offer social housing providers an opportunity to match fund to the maximum DFG amount of £30,000 for equipment installation and property extensions.

**END OF REPORT**