

DECISION-MAKER:	INTERIM DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY		
SUBJECT:	APPROVAL TO SPEND £1.2M ON DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS APPROVED IN 2013/14		
DATE OF DECISION:	21 AUGUST 2013		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE

BRIEF SUMMARY

Approval to spend £1.2M on mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) approved during the 2013/14 financial year is sought. The grants will be paid in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Each grant is means tested and awarded in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. The purpose of the grant is to enable independent living by adapting homes that are owner occupied, rented privately or from a Registered Provider (housing association), to meet the long term needs of disabled occupiers. One hundred and fifty homes will be adapted at an average cost of £8,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) Approve the decision to spend £1.2M on mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2013/14 financial year in accordance with the Housing General Fund Capital Programme.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. Approval to spend £1.2M on Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2013/14 financial year will help the Council meet its statutory duty to award these grants to adapt the homes of vulnerable disabled people.
2. Funding for these grants was approved by full Council in February 2013 and is contained within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme,

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Not spending this resource on Disabled Facilities Grants would mean that the Council would not fulfil its statutory duty to award these mandatory grants and this would be inconsistent with the Council Plan and Housing Strategy.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. This decision was considered and approved by the Housing Capital and Projects Board on 28 June 2013, in accordance with the Council's approach to the management of major capital projects and following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainability and the Head of Finance and IT.
5. The Project Initiation Document approved by the Board is attached at Appendix 1 and shows that the funding will deliver 150 completed adaptations at an average cost of £8,000 per grant by 30 June 2014.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

6. Funding of £1.2M for Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2013/14 financial year is contained within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme approved by full Council in February 2013.
7. The DFGs approved in 2013/14 (£1.2M) will be funded as follows:
 - Government Grant £777,000 (in 2013/14)
 - Council resources (identified Right-to-Buy receipts) £423,000 (£123,000 in 2013/14 and £300,000 in 2014/15)

Property/Other

8. There are no property or other implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

9. Disabled Facilities Grants are awarded in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.
10. The Council's Officer Scheme of Delegation states:

“3.1.44 In relation to the Housing General Fund Capital Programme, Home Improvement Loans and the Disabled Facilities Grant Scheme Approval and following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Head of Finance and IT, to approve capital expenditure under Financial Procedure Rules for 2008/09 and subsequent years in accordance with the sums included in the approved capital programme subject to the capital resources being available.”

Other Legal Implications:

11. The Council would be at risk of legal challenge if it failed to award Disabled Facilities Grants, as it has a statutory duty to do so in accordance with the requirements set out in the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and associated regulations.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

12. The recommendation is consistent with the Council Plan 2013-16 and helps deliver the priority of improving health and keeping people safe and is in accordance with the Council's Housing Strategy 2011-15.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Project Initiation Document
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Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

Not applicable	
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