

Public Document Pack

Officer Decision Making

Thursday, 5th November, 2015
at 1.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Room 204
1st Floor East Wing

This meeting is not open to the public

Decision Maker

Director, Place

Contacts

Democratic Support Officer

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AGENDA

Agendas and papers are available via the Council's website

1 APPROVAL TO SPEND £1.2 MILLION ON DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS IN 2015/16 (Pages 1 - 4)

To consider the report of the Head of Regulatory and City Services seeking approval to spend the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme for 2015/16.

Wednesday, 28 October 2015

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Agenda Item 1

DECISION-MAKER:	DIRECTOR OF PLACE		
SUBJECT:	APPROVAL TO SPEND £1.2 MILLION ON DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS IN 2015/16		
DATE OF DECISION:	5 th NOVEMBER 2015		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF REGULATORY AND CITY SERVICES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Janet Hawkins	Tel: 023 8083 2617
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Director	Name:	Mark heath	Tel: 023 8083
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
NOT APPLICABLE			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>Approval to spend £1.2M on mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) approved during the 2015/16 financial year is sought. The grants will be paid in 2015/16 and 2016/17. 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.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	To approve, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £1.2M on mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants, phased £900,000 in 2015/16 and £300,000 in 2016/17, provision for which is contained within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	Approval to spend £1.2M on Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2015/16 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 2015 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 not be consistent 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 24 th July 2015, 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.
5.	The scheme will deliver around 150 completed adaptations at an average cost of £8,000 per grant by 30 September 2016. Each grant will be awarded in accordance with the requirements set out in the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and associated legislation. The Head of Regulatory and City Services has the delegated power to approve Disabled Facilities Grants, of which there were 147 such grants approved in 2014/15.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
6.	Funding of £1.2M for Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2015/16 financial year is contained within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme approved by full Council in February 2015.
7.	The DFGs approved in 2015/16 (£1.2M) will be funded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better Care Fund £908,000 • Council resources (identified Right-to-Buy receipts) £292,000
<u>Property/Other</u>	
8.	There are no property or other implications
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
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 in 3.1.21: In respect of regeneration land, 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 Chief Financial Officer, to approve capital expenditure under Financial Procedure Rules in accordance with the sums included in the approved capital programme subject to the capital resources being available.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
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

<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out?	Yes
Other Background Documents	
Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: Civic Centre, Southampton	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	EIA

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