

DECISION-MAKER:	DIRECTOR OF PLACE		
SUBJECT:	APPROVAL TO SPEND £1.2 MILLION ON DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS IN 2014/15		
DATE OF DECISION:	7 OCTOBER 2014		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF REGULATORY AND CITY 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 2014/15 financial year is sought. The grants will be paid in 2014/15 and 2015/16. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	To approve, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £1.2M on mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants, phased £900,000 in 2014/15 and £300,000 in 2015/16, provision for which is contained within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme.
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REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	Approval to spend £1.2M on Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2014/15 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 2014 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.
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
4.	This decision was considered and approved by the Housing Capital and Projects Board on 26 th September 2014, 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 Chief Financial Officer.
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 September 2016.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
6.	Funding of £1.2M for Disabled Facilities Grants approved during the 2014/15 financial year is contained within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme approved by full Council in February 2014.
7.	The DFGs approved in 2014/15 (£1.2M) will be funded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Grant £793,100 (in 2014/15) • Council resources (identified Right-to-Buy receipts) £406,900 (£106,900 in 2014/15 and £300,000 in 2015/16)
<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: "3.1.23 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 the 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.	Project Initiation Document
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?	No
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)
1.	Not applicable.