

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning Cllr Simon Allen, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing Cllr David Bellotti, Cabinet Member for Community Resources		
<b>DECISION DATE:</b>	<b>On or after 27th August 2011</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		<b>E</b>	2112
<b>TITLE:</b>	Capital Projects Approval - Disabled Facilities Grant Budget 2011/12		
<b>WARD:</b>	All		
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>			
<b>List of attachments to this report: None</b>			

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 Housing Services administer a programme of Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. This report deals with the funding to support the programme.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet members are asked to agree that:

2.1 The Disabled Facilities Grant capital budget as proposed in the report is approved.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Funding for this programme was agreed in the Adult Health and Social Services Medium Term financial plan. There are no additional funding implications. Funding for the programme comprises a capital grant of £422,000 from government and a £578,000 revenue contribution from the Council.

### **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

4.1 Promoting the independence of older people - The DFG funds adaptations to the homes of older people with mobility difficulties to assist independent living and help them continue to live in their existing home.

4.2 Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people - The DFG funds adaptations to the homes of children with mobility difficulties to help provide greater independence within their home.

### **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 The Housing Grants, Construction & Regeneration Act 1996 places a duty on Local Housing Authorities to fund certain types of adaptations for disabled householders, subject to a financial means test. Eligible adaptations are those designed to enable freedom of movement into and around the applicant's home.

5.2 Funding for the programme comprises £422,000 government grant and £578,000 revenue contribution. The budget has been approved by the Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan for the directorate.

5.3 A recent national benchmarking exercise, completed in 2010 with 6 other authorities, confirmed that Housing Services deal with very high levels of demand and with the lowest administration costs of any of the benchmarked authorities. In addition we are currently investigating how we can streamline the process and make further efficiency savings.

### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The report author and Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

### **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 The mandatory disabled facilities grant is targeted at low income disabled residents considered to be eligible as a result of an assessment by the Occupational Therapy Service and Housing Services. However, the grant counters the impact of an eligible disability by improving mobility and access to facilities within the home and therefore promotes independent living. This is in accordance with the aims of the Equalities Act and should be considered as part of the decision making process.

## 8 RATIONALE

8.1 The approval for funding of the Disabled Facilities Grants programme will enable to Council to fulfil its statutory function and provide means tested assistance to residence that require an adaptation to their home for independent living.

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The capital budget funds the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant programme. Therefore no other options have been considered.

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Staff; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

10.2 The consultation will be carried out circulating this report and appendices for comment by email.

## 11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion and Young People - The home adaptations as recommended by the Occupational Therapy Service and carried out with the help of a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) give disabled residents the opportunity to live more independently in their own homes.

11.2 Customer Focus – applicants for the grant are assisted by the Occupational Therapy Service and Housing Service. Older residents are offered the services of the Council's Home Improvement Agency, Care and Repair;

11.3 Other Legal Considerations – the DFG is a mandatory grant.

## 12 ADVICE SOUGHT

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	Chris Mordaunt 01225 396282
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	