

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L29 20/21

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Allocation of additional in year Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) in 2020/21
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Tudor Evans, Leader
3	Report author and contact details: Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager) 01752 304 823 dave.ryland@plymouth.gov.uk Matt Garrett (Service Director of Community Connections), matt.garrett@plymouth.gov.uk , 01752 306733
4	Decision to be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Briefing Note. 2. Approves an increase to the capital programme of £333,922 for the project financed by Better Care Funding for the provision of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants and assistance offered through the Independent Living Policy in 2020/21 3. Delegates the approval of spend to Craig McArdle, Strategic Director for People
5	Reasons for decision: DFG's are mandatory governed by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act. The likely consequences for the council in not providing DFG's will be increasing complaints of maladministration, with resulting fines, and negative perceptions and media coverage. DFG's greatly improve quality of life for clients, their careers and family members and effective use of the grants will help contain the potential increase in associated costs to Social Care Services.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: DFG's are mandatory and must be delivered in accordance with statutory requirements and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance. Eligible applicants are entitled to apply to the council for a DFG.
7	Financial implications: For 2020/21, the approved budget of £2,479,859 is wholly supported from a matching government grant, ring-fenced to the Better Care Fund this £333,922 is subject to the same controls. Revenue Implication: There are no other direct revenue implications associated with the additional provision funding. However, there is evidence to suggest that the provision of DFG's reduces revenue pressures within other services, including Adult Social Care Packages, Residential Care and Health Services.

	<p>The Better Care Fund (BCF) includes all central funding for DFGs from 2015. The BCF is a £5.3bn pooled fund between health, social care and housing, which aims to improve the way support for older and disabled people is both commissioned and funded.</p> <p>Agreement to fund DFG as indicated within the Better Care Fund (BCF) settlement has been provided and supported through Integrated Health and Wellbeing Board (IHWB).</p>			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million
		x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.	
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	The provision of DFG's contributes to 'Caring Plymouth' by promoting independence and reducing health and social inequality, helping people to take control of their lives and to be treated with dignity and respect. DFG funded major adaptations enable people to remain in their own homes, thereby helping to contain the potential for increases in costs to health and care services and minimising risks to disabled people, their family and carers. Wellbeing is a guiding principle throughout the Care Act 2014 which sets out the framework for the future provision of adult social care. Suitability of living accommodation is one of the matters local authorities must take into account as part of its duty to promote wellbeing. The provision of major adaptations is a preventative measure which can promote someone's wellbeing allowing them to live as independently as possible and for as long as possible.		
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	N/A		
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			

I2b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:			Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:				
	Print Name:				
Consultation					
I3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X		
		No		(If no go to section I4)	
I3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development			
I3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	17/12/2020			
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer	
		No	X		
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Craig McArdle		
		Job title	Strategic Director for People		
		Date consulted	14/12/2020		
Sign-off					
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS77 20/21		
		Finance (mandatory)	djn.20.21.200		
		Legal (mandatory)	lt/35891/171220		
		Human Resources (if applicable)			
		Corporate property (if applicable)			
		Procurement (if applicable)			
Appendices					
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix			
	A	Additional in Year Funding 2020/21 - Disabled Facilities Grant Briefing			

	B	DFG Equalities Impact Assessment 2020							
Confidential/exempt information									
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)					
		No	X						
		Exemption Paragraph Number							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:								
Background Papers									
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Cabinet Member Signature									
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.								
Signature			Date of decision	5 January 2021					
Print Name	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE								

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