

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – L01 22/23

Decision	
1	<p>Title of decision: Allocation of £2,813,781 grant funding to the Council's capital programme for the provision of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) in 2022/23. Further approve the maximum allocation of £597,012 of funding received from Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) into the Councils capital programme for the provision of mandatory DFG.</p>
2	<p>Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Richard Bingley</p>
3	<p>Report author and contact details:</p> <p>Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager) 01752 304 823 dave.ryland@plymouth.gov.uk</p> <p>Matt Garrett (Service Director of Community Connections), matt.garrett@plymouth.gov.uk, 01752 306733</p>
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <p>Approve the project up to £3,410,793 onto 2022/23 capital programme.</p> <p>The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have awarded £573m for the Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) in 2022/23. The allocation for Plymouth is £2,813,781 funded by Better Care Funding for the provision of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants and assistance offered through the Independent Living Policy in 2022/23.</p> <p>Allocates balance of contributions received from Plymouth Community Homes during financial year 2021/22 totalling £197,012.</p> <p>Additional approval up to a maximum £400,000 during financial year 2022/23 limited to actual funding received from Plymouth Community Homes.</p> <p>The funding received from Plymouth Community Homes is to replenish funding used from the DFG capital programme for the provision of mandatory DFG adaptations in their properties.</p> <p>Delegates the approval of spend to Craig McArdle, Strategic Director for People</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Plymouth Community Homes have agreed to fund the first £5,000 to all DFG adaptations in their properties excluding installation of stairlifts, with an annual maximum of £400,000 in years 2021/22 and</p>

	<p>2022/23. In year 2021/22, £323,844 has been invoiced to Plymouth Community Homes as a result of the completion of 71 adaptations in their properties facilitated by Plymouth City Council. Approval of £126,832 of this funding has already been provided by the S151 officer leaving a balance of £197,012 to be allocated to the 2022/23 capital programme. Invoices are produced retrospectively each quarter upon completion of works.</p> <p>DFG's are mandatory governed by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act.</p> <p>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.</p>			
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>DFG's are mandatory and must be delivered in accordance with statutory requirements. Eligible applicants are entitled to apply to the council for a DFG.</p> <p>Plymouth Community Homes funding the first £5,000 of adaptations in their properties permits an extended reach of Better Care Funding thus increasing the number of people's lives improved. This is a unique arrangement and as such doing nothing would result in limitations in the number of adaptations delivered across the city as it would reduce access to funding.</p>			
7	<p>Financial implications:</p> <p>For 2022/23, the approved budget of £2,813,781 is wholly supported from government grant, ring-fenced to the Better Care Fund.</p> <p>The cost of appropriate staff time associated with the delivery of DFG works is currently capitalised, and therefore partly funded within the above Capital allocation.</p> <p>There are no other direct revenue implications associated with the provision of these grants. 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> <p>The Better Care Fund (BCF) has centralised all funding for DFGs since 2015. The BCF is pooled funding between health, social care and housing, which focuses on the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centered care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.</p> <p>The funding balance of £197,012 from Plymouth Community Homes contributions in year 2021/22 finances a further 27 properties to be adapted based on the average completion cost of £7,234.08. If maximised to the full allocation of £400,000 in 2022/23 a further 55 adaptations will be conducted as a result of this arrangement.</p> <p>Agreement to fund DFG as indicated within the BCF settlement has been provided and supported through Integrated Health and Wellbeing Board (IHWB).</p>			
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <p>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</p> <p>x in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new</p>

				savings in excess of £1 million
			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	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members'	Yes	X	

	portfolios affected by the decision?	No		(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Rebecca Smith Portfolio Holder for Homes and Communities		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	07/06/22		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No		
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Craig McArdle	
		Job title	Strategic Director for People	
		Date consulted	20/05/22	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS09 22/23	
		Finance (mandatory)	pl.22.23.20.	
		Legal (mandatory)	EJ/38709	
		Human Resources (if applicable)		
		Corporate property (if applicable)		
		Procurement (if applicable)		
Appendices				
17	Ref.	Title of appendix		
Confidential/exempt information				
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	No		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I 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		
		Exemption Paragraph Number		

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>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.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	<p>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.</p>							
Signature				Date of decision	14 June 2022			
Print Name	Councillor Richard Bingley							