

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number – L09 23/24

Decision	
1	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 2023/24.
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council
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: Approve the Briefing Note; Allocate £2,813,781 to the Capital Programme funded by Better Care Funding for the provision of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants and assistance offered through the Independent Living Policy in 2023/24; Delegates the approval of spend to the Strategic Director for People, where they do not already have authority to do so.
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 Government guidance. Eligible applicants are entitled to apply to the council for a DFG.
7	Financial implications: For 2023/24, the approved budget of £2,813,781 is funded from a matching government grant, ring-fenced to the Better Care Fund. Revenue Implication: 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>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) 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 and has been provided and is 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>	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 £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.	
	<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>			
9	<p>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:</p>	<p>The provision of DFG's contributes to the corporate plan by promoting independence, fairness, 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.</p>		
10	<p>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</p>	N/A		
Urgent decisions				
11	<p>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the</p>	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for

	interests of the Council or the public?			advice)
		No	X	(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' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Cllr Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	21 June 2023		
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	X	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anna Coles	
		Job title	Strategic Director for People	
		Date consulted	22 May 2023	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS 21 23/24	
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.23.24.49	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/AC/27/6/23	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	n/a	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	n/a	
		Procurement (if applicable)	n/a	

Appendices									
17	Ref.	Title of appendix							
	A	2023-24 Disabled Facilities Grant Briefing							
	B	DFG Equalities Impact Assessment 2023							
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 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	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 I 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	11/07/2023
Print Name	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council.		