

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number – L 21 23/24

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Disabled Facilities Grant Autumn Budget and recharge to Plymouth Community Homes
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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Briefing Note; 2. Allocate an additional £245,531 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; 3. Approve up to a maximum £400,000 during financial year 2023/24 (limited to actual funding received from Plymouth Community Homes) to be added to the capital programme to replenish funding used from the DFG capital programme for the provision of mandatory DFG adaptations in PCH properties; 4. Delegate the approval of spend and the award of contracts to the Strategic Director for People where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.
5	Reasons for decision: DFG's are mandatory governed by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act. 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. 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. 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 year 2023/2024. In year 2022/2023, £360,463.62 was invoiced to PCH as a result of the completion of 107 adaptations in their properties facilitated by Plymouth City Council. Invoices are produced retrospectively each quarter upon completion of works. DFG's are mandatory governed by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act. 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	<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. 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.</p> <p>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 2023/2024, the approved budget of £2,813,781 is wholly supported from government grant, ring fenced to the Better Care Fund. 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. The Better Care Fund (BCF) has centralised all funding for DFGs since 2015.</p> <p>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-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.</p> <p>The Autumn Budget announcement offers direct additional funding to the 2023/24 budget and permits a further 21 adaptations at current average costs. This funding is ring fenced to the Better Care Fund.</p> <p>If maximised to the full allocation of £400,000 in 2023/24 a further 80 plus adaptations could 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 savings in excess of £1 million</p> <p>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>
	<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</p>	<p>The provision of DFG's contributes to the corporate plan 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</p>		

	revenue/capital budget:	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:			
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?	Councillor Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	08 September 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	Name	Gary Walbridge	

	Team member has been consulted?	Job title	Interim Strategic Director for People					
		Date consulted	11 August 2023					
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS 45 23/24					
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.23.24.108					
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/2/AC/19/9/23.					
		Human Resources (if applicable)						
		Corporate property (if applicable)						
		Procurement (if applicable)						
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Briefing Note DFG additional funding 2023						
	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	<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 I 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	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	25 September 2023			
Print Name	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council						