

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number - L09 24/25

Decision	
1	<b>Title of decision:</b> 2024/25 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Allocation & 2024/25 Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) Contribution
2	<b>Decision maker:</b> Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)
3	<b>Report author and contact details:</b> Dave Ryland (Head of Housing Standards) 01752 304823 <a href="mailto:dave.ryland@plymouth.gov.uk">dave.ryland@plymouth.gov.uk</a> Matt Garrett (Service Director of Community Connections) <a href="mailto:matt.garrett@plymouth.gov.uk">matt.garrett@plymouth.gov.uk</a>
4	<b>Decision to be taken:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the briefing note;</li> <li>2. Allocate £3,069,132 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 2024/25;</li> <li>3. Approve up to a maximum £400,000 during financial year 2024/25 (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;</li> <li>4. Delegate the approval of spend and the award of contracts to the Strategic Director for Health, Adults and Communities where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.</li> </ol>
5	<b>Reasons for decision:</b> <p>DFG's are mandatory governed by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act.</p> <p>Failure to allocate would prevent the delivery of major adaptations and could result in increased 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 year 2024/25. In year 2023/24, £216,879.29 was invoiced to PCH as a result of the completion of adaptations in their properties facilitated by Plymouth City Council.</p> <p>Invoices are produced retrospectively each quarter upon completion of works.</p>
6	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b> <p>DFG's are mandatory governed by the 1996 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act.</p> <p>The likely consequences for the Council in not providing DFG's will be increasing complaints of</p>

	<p>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.</p>			
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Financial implications and risks:</b></p> <p>For 2024/25, the approved budget of £3,069,132 is funded from a government grant, ring-fenced to the Better Care Fund.</p> <p>Revenue Implications: Costs of staff time associated with the delivery of DFG works is currently capitalised and therefore partly funded within the capital allocation.</p> <p>There are no other direct revenue implications. However, there is evidence to suggest that the provision of DFG reduces revenue pressures within other services such as Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, residential care and health services. This is due to BCF being 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>If maximised to the full £400,000 allocation, the additional funding offered by PCH in 2024/25 could enable an additional 35 adaptations.</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 (IHVB).</p>			
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (please contact <b>Democratic Support</b> for further advice)</p> <p>Please type an X into the relevant boxes</p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<p><b>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</b></p>
			<b>X</b>	in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total
			<b>X</b>	in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1 million</b> annually
			<b>X</b>	is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.
	<p><b>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the <b>Forward Plan of Key Decisions</b></b></p>	N/A		
<b>9</b>	<p><b>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:</b></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</p>		

		<p>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> <p>Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry.</p> <p>Keeping children, adults and communities safe.</p> <p>Focusing on prevention and early intervention.</p> <p>Spending money wisely.</p>		
<b>I0</b>	<b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b>	A Climate Impact Assessment is attached.		
<b>Urgent decisions</b>				
<b>I1</b>	<b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support ( <a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a> ) for advice)
		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>(If no, go to section I3a)</b>
<b>I2a</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>			
<b>I2b</b>	<b>Scrutiny Chair Signature:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
	<b>Scrutiny Committee name:</b>			
	<b>Print Name:</b>			
<b>Consultation</b>				
<b>I3a</b>	<b>Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	
		<b>No</b>		<b>(If no go to section I4)</b>
<b>I3b</b>	<b>Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?</b>	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities.)		
<b>I3c</b>	<b>Date Cabinet member consulted</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024		
<b>I4</b>	<b>Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>I5</b>	<b>Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?</b>	<b>Name</b>	Gary Walbridge	
		<b>Job title</b>	Interim Strategic Director for Adults,	

			Health and Communities.					
		<b>Date consulted</b>	<b>18/06/24</b>					
<b>Sign-off</b>								
<b>16</b>	<b>Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:</b>	<b>Democratic Support (mandatory)</b>	DS27 24/25					
		<b>Finance (mandatory)</b>	DJN.24.25.029					
		<b>Legal (mandatory)</b>	IW – 3563 – 21.06.24					
		<b>Procurement (if applicable)</b>	N/A					
		<b>Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)</b>	N/A					
		<b>Human Resources (if applicable)</b>	N/A					
<b>Appendices</b>								
<b>17</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Title of appendix</b>						
	A	Briefing report for publication						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment						
	C	Climate Impact Assessment						
<b>Confidential/exempt information</b>								
<b>18a</b>	<b>Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		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 <b>18b</b> below.  (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>					
		<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>18b</b>	<b>Confidential/exempt briefing report title:</b>							
<b>Background Papers</b>								
<b>19</b>	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							
<b>20</b>	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 (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.						
<b>Signature</b>			<b>Date of decision</b>	31.07.24			
<b>Print Name</b>	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)						