

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number – L11 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: 2025/26 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Allocation & 2025/26 Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) Contribution
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Dave Ryland (Head of Housing Standards) 01752 304823 dave.ryland@plymouth.gov.uk Matt Garrett (Service Director of Community Connections) matt.garrett@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the briefing note; 2. Allocate £3,491,445 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 2025/26; 3. Approve up to a maximum £400,000 during financial year 2025/26 (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. Approve the removal of £109,877.85, reflect unspent funds allocated for adaptations in Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) properties in 24/25; 5. Delegate the approval of spend and the award of contracts to the Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities, where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.
5	Reasons for decision: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) are a statutory requirement under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. Failure to allocate and deliver these grants would prevent the provision of essential major adaptations, potentially leading to increased complaints of maladministration, financial penalties, reputational damage, and negative media attention. 2. Impact and Value - DFGs significantly enhance the quality of life for recipients, their carers, and families. Effective use of these grants helps reduce demand on social care services by enabling individuals to live safely and independently in their own homes. 3. Partnership Funding - Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) has agreed to contribute up to £5,000 per adaptation in their properties (excluding stairlift installations), with a maximum annual contribution of £400,000 for 2025/26. Invoices for completed works are issued retrospectively on a quarterly basis.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected:

	<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>														
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>For 2025/26, the approved £3,491,445 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget is fully funded through a government grant, ring-fenced within the Better Care Fund (BCF).</p> <p>Revenue Implications</p> <p>Staff costs associated with the delivery of DFG works are capitalised and therefore partially funded from the capital allocation. There are no additional direct revenue implications. However, evidence indicates that DFG provision helps reduce revenue pressures across other services, including Adult Social Care, Children's Services, residential care, and health services. This aligns with the BCF's objective to integrate health, social care, and housing to deliver person-centred, sustainable care and improved outcomes.</p> <p>Additional Funding Impact</p> <p>If fully utilised, the £400,000 contribution from Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) could support approximately 35 additional adaptations in 2025/26, further extending the reach and impact of the DFG programme.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>The funding and delivery of DFGs as outlined in the BCF settlement has been formally agreed and is supported by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Board (IHWB).</p>														
8	<p>Legal Implications: (For completion by Legal Officers)</p> <p>No legal implication – Ian Wills</p>														
9	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p> <p>Please type an X into the relevant boxes</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td>X</td><td>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</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>X</td><td>in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million annually</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>X</td><td>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.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	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 annually		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.	
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	<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>	N/A													
10	<p>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy</p>	<p>The provision of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) directly supports the cooperate plan to "keeping children, adults and communities safe" by promoting independence, reducing health and social inequalities, and enabling individuals to live</p>													

	framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	<p>with dignity and respect. Major adaptations funded through DFGs allow people to remain safely in their homes, helping to mitigate rising costs in health and social care and reducing risks for disabled individuals, their families, and carers.</p> <p>This approach aligns with the Care Act 2014, which places wellbeing at the heart of adult social care. Local authorities are required to consider the suitability of living accommodation as part of their duty to promote wellbeing. Major adaptations serve as a preventative measure, enhancing quality of life and enabling individuals to live independently for as long as possible.</p> <p>Keeping children, adults and communities safe.</p> <p>Focusing on prevention and early intervention.</p> <p>Spending money wisely.</p>		
I I	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	Please see attached Climate Impact Assessment.		
Urgent decisions				
I 2a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section I 3a)
I 2b	Reason for urgency:			
I 2c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
I 3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section I 4)
I 3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Chris Penberthy - Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities		
I 3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	16 July 2025		

14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer				
		No	X					
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name		Gary Walbridge				
		Job title		Strategic Director Adults, Health and Communities				
		Date consulted		01 July 2025				
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)			JS26 25/26			
		Finance (mandatory)			ITG.25.26.061			
		Legal (mandatory)			IW 5232			
		Procurement (if applicable)			N/A			
		Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)			N/A			
		Human Resources (if applicable)			N/A			
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	25.26 DFG Funding Briefing for Cabinet Executive Delegated Decision						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment EIA - ILA (July 2025)						
	C	Climate Impact Assessment - CIA – DFG Funding 25.26						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box	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						
		I	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 (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision		22 September 2025		
Print Name		Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council						