



DECISION OF SECTION 151 OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL,
CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

DECISION NO: CSD 24

SUBJECT: DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS BUDGET

BACKGROUND:

Provision has been made within the 2016/17 capital programme, utilising Better Care Fund capital, to fund Disabled Facilities Grants (£1.118M) and to fund social care initiatives to incentivise provision or adapt existing housing to enable additional supported accommodation opportunities for identified vulnerable people (£514k). In addition £176,620 capital slippage from 2015/16 has been allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), providing a total DFG budget of £1,294,620.

The Investment and Infrastructure Board recently considered a report concerning Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and agreed that the capital budget for DFGs should be increased to £1.5M in 2016/17 to meet the identified demand for DFGs, funded through capital resources released following a recent review of the sheltered leasehold capital reserve. Authority is sought to increase the DFG budget.

DECISION:

To agree to increase the 2016/17 capital budget for DFGs from £1,294,620 to £1.5M funded through resources released from the sheltered leasehold capital reserve.

REASONS:

Failure to increase the DFG budget would require immediate action to limit commitments to avoid an overspend the consequence would result in significant delays to provide major adaptations. This action would risk breaching the statutory period for dealing with applications and expose the Council to legal challenge.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The DFG is a mandatory grant and alternatives are limited without breaching the legislation and guidance as outlined above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed to fund the increased budgetary provision for DFGs through virement of £205,000 from resources released from the Sheltered Leasehold capital reserve.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE YEARS

Increasing the budgetary provision in this financial year will reduce financial pressures in the 2017/18 financial year. There are no other direct financial implications for future years. Regular reports on the budgetary position will continue to be made to the Investment and Infrastructure Board.

Signed.....

**Malcolm Coe
Head of Finance and Property
(Section 151 Officer)**

Dated: 01/07/16