



A8 Which Committee should this decision be submitted to? *(Please tick as appropriate)*

Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee

Scrutiny (Regeneration Development and Market Hall) Committee

Scrutiny (Health and Wellbeing) Committee X

Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee

Audit Committee

B5 What are the financial implications?

The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:

The DFG funds the capital programme scheme, which delivers the required works. The grant is also provided on the basis that it is ring-fenced to fund the equipment and adjustments that are required in residents' homes. When the Capital Programme scheme is not fully spent in year, both funding and the related scheme is carried forward into the next year in accordance with the ring-fencing.

One of the reasons that the Capital Programme scheme is not fully spent in year, is that there is a time delay between the Council making the grant award to the householder and the capital works then being completed.

The table below summarises the Capital Programme scheme for DFG works and the carry forwards at the end of each year.

Table 1- Capital Programme for DFGs

	From Monitoring	From Monitoring	From Monitoring	Ledger	
Year	Brought Forward Grant	Grant	Budget	Expenditure	Carry Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					(d less e)
2018/19	194,378	947,755	1,142,133	253,450	888,683
2019/20	888,683	1,022,684	1,911,367	581,896	1,329,471
2020/21	1,330,328	1,160,392	2,490,720	740,582	1,750,138
2021/22	1,750,138	1,160,392	2,910,530	973,981	1,936,549

2022/2 3	1,936,549	1,160,392	3,096,941	1,161,853	1,935,088
2023/2 4	1,935,088	1,160,392 101,256*	3,196,736	-	-

(*Additional allocation notified in October 23)

This report recommends increased discretionary assistance which will have a financial impact on the DFG budget, and enable the carry forward to be utilised. The DFG is a mandatory grant and the refusal to accept applications due to a lack of resources is unlawful, therefore whilst increased discretionary assistance is encouraged, the impact will be closely monitored to ensure that there is sufficient funding for mandatory DFGs.

The policy is clear that the award of discretionary assistance is dependent on sufficient funds being available, this reduces the risk of insufficient resources being available for mandatory grant applications.

The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:

Please print name: James Hopwood

Please sign name: (Approval by email 07/03/24)

Policy Framework

<p>B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?</p> <p>B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?</p> <p>B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?</p> <p>B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?</p> <p>B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?</p> <p>B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?</p>	<p>Yes <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p> <p>NA <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p> <p>NA <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p> <p>Yes <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p> <p>NA <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p> <p>NA <i>(please delete as appropriate)</i></p>
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Equalities Implications

<p>B8 What are the Equalities implications:</p>
<p>B8.3 The subject of this Report is a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment has been completed which identified no negative impacts.</p>

Risk Assessment

<p>B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:</p>
<p>B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):</p> <p>Reduced administrative costs through the provision of a cost effective in-house disabled facilities grant service.</p> <p>Reduced timescales involved in the delivery of adaptations providing a reduction in delays.</p> <p>Increased number of adaptations delivered to clients resulting in reduced social care and health costs, a reduction of accidents in the home and increasing the number of people that are able to remain in their own home.</p> <p>Ability to provide a service that is responsive to local needs of the borough residents.</p>
<p>B9.2 Negative (Threats)</p> <p>Reduced or insufficient funding received from DLUHC and passporting of money from Staffordshire County Council reducing the ability to provide grants, resulting in additional delays to the current service.</p> <p>The council is unable to recover VAT on Disabled Facility Grant work and is reliant on the contractor ensuring the maximum number of invoices are zero rated as</p>

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:

possible. This used to be the agency responsibility to arrange but will now be directly chargeable against the capital grant where incurred.

Increasing the amount available as discretionary grant (top up monies) reduces the overall amount available for mandatory grants.

Additional demands on the service due to the effects of long Covid on clients that may need to access the service (unknown impact)

B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register.] Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:

B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows:

The principal legal provisions are contained in the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and associated regulations. This Act explicitly covers mandatory DFGs offering assistance once the recommendation has fulfilled the criteria of an adaptation being 'necessary and appropriate' and 'reasonable and practical'. Applicants also have to satisfy a Test of Resources looking at their income and savings which determines whether they will have to contribute towards a grant.

The maximum amount of DFG is currently set by The Disabled Facilities Grants (Maximum Amounts and Additional Purposes) (England) Order 2008 at £30,000 and has been at this level since 2008.

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 provides freedom and opportunities for the Local Authority to address housing issues. This Order had important implications for local housing authorities because it repeals much of the existing prescriptive legislation governing the provision of renewal grants to homeowners and replaces it with a new wide-ranging power to provide assistance for housing renewal.

The provision of discretionary assistance is detailed within the Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations Policy which is available for inspection, free of charge, at the Town Hall, Burton Upon Trent at all reasonable times and copies of a document containing a summary of the policy may be obtained by post.

The provision of disabled facilities grants and discretionary assistance is subject to grant conditions which are detailed within the Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations Policy.

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team

Please print name: John Teasdale

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:

Please sign name: (Approval by email 07/03/24)

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications:

B11.1 The proposal would result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).

B11.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):
Improved energy efficiency

B11.3 Negative (Threats):
NA

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:

B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Safety Media for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision? Yes (*please delete as appropriate*)

Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:

1. **REVENUE** – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000
2. **CAPITAL** – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000
3. **A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.**

B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	<i>No (please delete as appropriate)</i>
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	<i>NA (please delete as appropriate)</i>

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to
democratic.services@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk