

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

23RD JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & REGULATORY SERVICES

DCLG – ADDITIONAL DFG FUNDING

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that DCLG has offered additional funding to this year to supplement the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Budget for 2017-18.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To approve the business case to spend the additional £25k offered to MBC by DCLG for wider social care capital projects and that it be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee that the capital programme be updated accordingly .**
- 2.2 **To approve waiving the means test for installation of this additional equipment and offer the services at an introductory rate.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 DCLG is offering MBC an additional £25k for the provision of adaptations to disabled people's homes to help them better access, and move around, their homes and/or gardens. Home adaptations can be a welcome intervention for many, enabling people to live independently and safely.

While this additional funding could continue to be used for home adaptations, there is also flexibility to use some of the additional funding on **wider social care capital projects**. The existing DFG budget for 2017-18 is currently underspent and therefore this additional funding can be directed to matters which are out of scope of normal DFG. This additional funding should be spent in the 2017-18 financial year.

It is proposed to be utilised to enhance the Lifeline offer enabling people to remain safer in their own homes longer. The enhanced services will include falls devices, a smoke detector linked to the control centre, a 'no landline – no problem' solution and mobile solutions to enable connection with the local control centre when out and about. There can be additional services to assist with cases involving dementia. To enable access into properties by emergency services a key safe can also be offered.

- 3.2 Discussions with the relevant officer of the rebranded Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have confirmed that they are comfortable with the funds being used to purchase the equipment described in 3.1 above. There is also a full understanding that such services are currently charged for and that this can continue to be the case with regard to this project, but if MBC chooses to we can offer a discounted/introductory rate whilst this equipment is available.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The existing DFG budget will not be fully allocated in 2017-18, so this additional

fund is accepted from DCLG to be more flexible on the wider social care capital projects.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The additional £25k will be utilised to fund Capital equipment for assistive technology and key safes.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 DCLG have been consulted with regard to the proposal and felt the proposal fitted with the 'wider social care agenda'. Any decision with regard to means testing any clients could be made at a local level.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 This project will be to enable residents to remain at home with more peace of mind.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 The project will be targeted at those who are ready for support to remain living independently in their own home.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

9.1 There are no climate change aspects to this report.

10.0 RISKS

10.1

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low		1		
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
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1	Funds not spent before end March 2018.
2	
3	
4	

11.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

11.1 Potentially any ward could be affected.

Contact Officer: Victoria Clarke
Date: 8th January 2018

Appendices :

Background Papers: Business Case
DCLG letter regarding additional £42m for DFGs in 2017-18

Reference : X : Committees\