

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 18 th September 2019
Report Subject	Disabled Facilities Grant Policy
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing & Assets)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 places a mandatory duty on Local Authorities to provide disabled facilities grants. The grant is available for adapting or providing facilities for a disabled person in a dwelling.

As part of the Internal Audit review of the Disabled Facilities Grant service in June 2018, it was identified that the current policy required a review in order to make the process and detail clearer and easier to understand.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1. | That the committee consider and support the revised policy. |
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	<p>A Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) is a mandatory grant to help individuals living with a disability with the cost of adapting their homes to enable them to continue living at their residence with the maximum amount of independence.</p> <p>The administration of DFG is carried out within the Housing and Asset portfolio following a referral from an Occupational Therapist once the appropriate considerations have determined that the best option for the individual is to have an adaptation to the property they live in.</p>
1.02	<p>DFG is available to owner occupiers and private tenants, for Local Authority tenants and for tenants in social housing, there are separate arrangements in place with their housing provider.</p>
1.03	<p>The maximum amount of grant available in Wales is £36,000 per allocation.</p>
1.04	<p>Where the application is for a child, or the applicant is in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, there is no means test and the cost of the adaptation up to the maximum grant will generally be awarded.</p>
1.05	<p>For other applications the amount of the grant will vary from zero to the maximum grant depending on the cost of the approved works and the financial circumstances of the applicant.</p> <p>A means test will be carried out to establish, based on the financial circumstances of the applicant, whether the applicant will be required to make a financial contribution to the adaptation costs.</p>
1.06	<p>As part of the 2016/17 internal audit scheduled programme and audit of the DFG service was undertaken with the following brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with relevant policies, procedures and regulations; • Administration of the DFG scheme; • Third party service level agreements and protocols; and • Performance monitoring
1.07	<p>Since then work has been ongoing to address and implement the recommendations contained within the report and to review service delivery in order to make improvements.</p>
1.08	<p>The report identified that the current policy required reviewing in order to make the process and detail clearer and easier to understand.</p> <p>This work has been completed and a draft of the revised policy and appendices are attached for Scrutiny members' observation and comments.</p>
1.09	<p>A significant amount of work has also been carried out to ensure that our customers, and the professionals who support them, have all the relevant information at the earliest opportunity.</p>

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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a direct result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Review and initial consultation with an Officer Working Group undertaken to review and revise the previous policy.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a direct result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Policy.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Jen Griffiths Job Title: Benefits Manager Telephone: 01352 702929 E-mail: jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) – A statutory grant of up to £36,000 to help individuals living with a disability with the cost of adapting their homes to enable them to continue living at their residence with the maximum amount of independence.