
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2011

COSP.87/11 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

The Chairman of the Disabled Facilities Task and Finish Group (Councillor Glover) submitted the final report of the Task Group.

Councillor Glover gave an overview of the work of the Task and Finish Group and thanked all Members, officers and witnesses that had been involved in the work of the Group.

He reminded the Panel of the statutory requirement for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and highlighted the continuing increase in the demand for the DFGs and the reduction in the financial support from Government.

Councillor Glover explained the reasons behind the recommendations made by the Group and drew particular attention to the need for the ongoing discussions with the GP Consortia to acknowledge the contribution that DFGs made to preventing hospital admissions and allowing people to remain in their own home. He highlighted the need for a county wide procurement framework and the concerns the Group had regarding the carry forward of committed grants. The Group also raised the issue of Lifetime Homes and urged Planning Officers to highlight Lifetime Homes when discussing and considering planning applications.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder welcomed the detailed report. He felt that all housing associations should be included in recommendation three and was pleased to hear that the Council had received a positive response from the GP Consortia and Health and Social Care. He supported the recommendations as set out in the report and commented that Planning Officers already raised the issue of Lifetime Homes with developers.

Members congratulated the Task and Finish Group on the clear recommendations made in the report and acknowledged that DFGs had been a serious concern for the Panel for a number of years. They felt that the Lifetime Homes standard should be encouraged when possible but acknowledged that the standards were not statutory and would not be implemented properly until legislation was introduced.

The Assistant Director (Community Engagement) (Mr Gerrard) confirmed that he would submit a report to the Panel outlining how the recommendations could be moved forward.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Task and Finish Group and Overview and Scrutiny Officer be thanked for their input into the final report and the detailed recommendations.

2) That the final report of the Disabled Facilities Task and Finish Group be approved and referred to the Executive for a formal response to the recommendations.