

**Written response to:** People Scrutiny Panel

**Resolution:** That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources provide written information to the Panel regarding the potential use of monies allocated for Disabled Facilities Grants that had not been used.

**Written response from:** Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

**Response:** The DFG allocation for 2022/23, which is received via the Better Care Fund (BCF), is £2,155,600, an increase of £255,800 when compared to the original estimate of £1,899,800.

This will be added to the existing capital programme scheme, along with any unspent funds from 2021/22 (£1,408,400) and will be spent in line with the Council's policy of awarding mandatory DFG's and discretionary grants under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance Policy). If any funds were unspent and not allocated to projects in line with this policy, this would be a consideration by the Executive to determine the alternate use of the funds.

In line with Grant Determination Letter, the funds must be spent on lawfully incurred capital expenditure by the City Council; any funds unspent at the year-end would be subject to an internal carry forward process, on the assumption that the BCF permits the funding to be rolled over to a future year and would be spent by the new Cumberland Council.

The latest KPI quarter return indicates that DFG referrals numbers are steadily increasing post covid, dramatically so in the last 6 months.

Internal staffing over the last 18 months, material shortages in the market and contractor availability to complete works have hindered our ability to deliver; however, measures have been put in place to improve contractors available for the adaptation works which should assist in resolving some of the issues around delivery and therefore spend.

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022