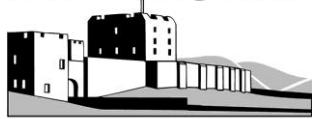


CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL



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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: Thursday 19th July 2012

Title: DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT's (DFG's)

Report of: The Director of Community Engagement

Report reference: CD 41/12

Summary:

This report provides Members of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an update on the Action Plan from the Disabled Facilities Grant Task and Finish Group that reported back to this Panel on 24th November 2011.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

Input related to the updated information provided within the report.

Recommendations:

That the work undertaken too date is noted.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

Appendix 1

	Recommendation	Update on Action
1.	That the Council continue to lobby Government to ensure that an appropriate amount of funding is secured to satisfy DFG demand in Carlisle.	Through membership of the DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) Working Group on the Modernisation of DFGs, the City Council continuing to lobby on behalf of all authorities in Cumbria for further funding. This effort is mainly focused on helping DCLG officials lobby DH (Department of Health) for further funding and helping them prepare the next CSR bid to Treasury. This effort successfully raised an additional £20m nationally from DH for DFGs, bringing in a further £54k to Carlisle. These additional monies would have been larger but the money was allocated in January too late in the year for us to be able to spend it before year end. We are lobbying DH and DCLG to try to ensure any additional monies from DH are provided earlier in the year.
2.	That the Executive give consideration to allocating some or all New Homes Bonus Grant to the DFG budget.	As part of the Council budget resolution for 2012/13 put forward by the Executive to Full Council and passed on the 7/2/12 an increase in capital funding for DFG's was identified. This was for £200,000 per annum in order to meet expected demand. The DFG capital grant from central government is £663,000 for the financial year 2012/13 and with the additional £200,000 per annum the overall budget is £863,000.
3.	That a clear reporting procedure is developed between Riverside, Social Care and the Council so that the Council is fully aware of all DFG cases from referral to completion to comply with its statutory duty in the provision of major adaptations.	In 2011 Riverside Housing undertook a review of disabled adaptations within their housing stock and as a result they have implemented a number of actions from the review. This has included referrals being made directly to them by Occupational Therapists (OT's) in relation to their tenants where an assessment has been made for a disabled adaptation. An agreed process has been put in place whereby a list of all referrals received by Riverside Housing from OT's is passed to the Council on a monthly basis.
4.	That consideration be given to requesting that Riverside	In 2011 Riverside Housing undertook a review of disabled adaptations within their housing stock and as a result they have implemented a number of actions from the review. This has

	contribute the first £7,000 of all DFG's relating to their properties.	included a commitment to fund the first £7,000 for approved DFG's relating to their properties. The exception to this has been where a second adaptation has been recommended for a client/tenant within a 12 month period which Riverside will not fund. It is expected that this will only apply to a very few cases and the Council will need to fund these.
5.	That the development of a Countywide procurement framework for adaptations is explored with other district councils, health and social care.	The City Council has implemented a procurement framework and appointed contractors for most of the adaptations we normally provide. This is part of the work to model a more integrated DFG process being piloted in Carlisle, the learning from which will be offered to other Districts as part of the options for improving the delivery of DFGs and making the process more sustainable.
6.	That the option of developing a community based recycling organisation for adaptations is considered further.	The Council is exploring with the contractors on the procurement framework options for the recycling of equipment. As part of the development of Carlisle's Home Improvement Agency, it is looking at with partners, community based social enterprises for the delivery of both recycling and other services to not only provide innovative ways of delivering adaptations but also training and employment opportunities.
7.	That Carlisle City Council be prepared to pilot the DFG integrated model with health and social care.	<p>The City Council has taken forward the piloting of the integrated approach to the delivery of DFGs producing models that make better use of existing resources and ensure sustainability in the future. The expected increase in demand from a growing older people population, coupled with the reduction in capital budgets, make it imperative that authorities improve the effectiveness of the service. The pilot is also looking at models for targeting resources with partners in both health and social care; and also developing prevention strategies to make best use of funding both now and in the future.</p> <p>As a first step in this process, Carlisle has been accredited as a Home Improvement Agency (HIA) by Foundations, the national body for HIAs. This has given Carlisle access to additional funding streams and increased the range of options available to clients needing help. The support available from Foundations will also help develop the service to nationally recognised</p>

		<p>standards. It is expected that through Foundations, DH will be providing monies for a Handyperson Service later in the year, which will only be available to accredited HIAs such as Carlisle. This will as in other areas be a chargeable service so will be self funding. We are in discussions with partners on a preferred model and exploring the possibility of additional seed corn funding.</p> <p>We are also working with Health and Social Care locally to develop Hospital Discharge Services in partnership with Riverside Careline service. Discussions are ongoing with a view to providing additional funding for DFGs from Health budgets in 2013-14; possibly on a call off contract basis.</p> <p>The HIA will be also developing services for people in the private sector who have the ability to pay for their own adaptations, charging a fee for the service, building capacity and the range of services available.</p>
8.	That the Council has discussions with the GP Consortia to address the identified imbalance between acute care and prevention service funding in recognition of the contribution that DFG's make to preventing hospital admissions.	<p>The Partnership Trust have established the 'Mrs Carlisle' project which aims to integrate Health and Social Care more closely with other services such as Housing and other help and support in the community. The HIA is currently mapping the housing options part of the project, looking at the housing services and support available in Carlisle. As part of this work, we are in discussions with the commissioners about the targeting of help at those who are at most risk of hospital admissions, preventing falls and ensuring that people have sufficient warmth to avoid increases in excess seasonal deaths, for example.</p>
9.	That the Executive give consideration within the budget process of the impact that committed grant carried forward has on the budget in the following year.	<p>As part of the Council budget resolution for 2012/13 put forward by the Executive to Full Council and passed on the 7/2/12 an increase in capital funding for DFG's was identified. This was for £200,000 per annum in order to meet expected demand.</p> <p>The DFG capital grant from central government is £663,000 for the financial year 2012/13 and with the additional £200,000 per annum the overall budget is £863,000.</p>

		In the financial year 2011/12 the overall budget was £1,017,700 and the spend figure was £1,020,486. The performance target identified for committed grant was £200,000 and this figure was kept to.
10.	That Planning Officers should consider raising the issue of Lifetime Homes when considering and discussing planning applications.	<p>Reference to Lifetime Homes appears in the supporting text of the existing Local Plan and will be reviewed in the updating of those policies. This provides a wider context for individual discussions with developers on specific developments.</p> <p>A consideration of the Lifetime Homes standards for developers is the extra cost incurred to bring new buildings up to those standards.</p>

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?	Yes	Positive
Age	Yes	Positive
Disability	Yes	Positive
Race	Yes	Positive
Gender/ Transgender	Yes	Positive
Sexual Orientation	Yes	Positive
Religion or belief	Yes	Positive
Human Rights	Yes	Positive
Health inequalities	Yes	Positive
Rurality	Yes	Positive

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

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If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.