
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2011

EX.166/11 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFGs)
(Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing
Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute COSP.87/11, consideration was given to a reference from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 24 November 2011 regarding the final report of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group. The Panel had 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."

Copies of the Minute Excerpt and final Report had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group was present at the meeting and expressed the hope that Executive Members had the opportunity to read the report. He explained that DFGs had a key role in helping people to stay independent in their own homes for as long as possible, and it was important that people could continue to exercise that choice by accessing support to make appropriate adaptations to their homes. The Chairman gave an overview of the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group highlighting, in particular, financial / budgetary; demographic; funding allocations; and health aspects.

Although no single cause or solution had been identified, the Group had set down ten important recommendations and the Chairman outlined the reasons behind each recommendation in turn for the benefit of Executive Members.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel thanked the Chairman for using his professional knowledge and bringing his informed mind to the work of the Task and Finish Group. She further expressed her thanks to the other Members involved.

The Chairman pointed out that lobbying had proved successful in the past in securing increased Government grant and that experience could again be drawn upon as Councils struggled to draw down resources. There was now an opportunity to really get health organisations on board in support of the work undertaken. She added that the

information presented in the final report would be extremely useful and expressed the hope that the Council would commence discussions as soon as possible.

The Leader thanked the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group for what was a very good piece of work. Lobbying had proved to be successful in the past and the Council would continue to do so. A further response on the recommendations contained within the final report would be provided at the next Panel meeting.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder thanked the Task and Finish Group for their excellent report, which was easy to understand and contained well rehearsed arguments. He emphasised the importance of liaising with interested parties and also planners and MPs.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Holder thanked all those involved, commenting that the Executive would bear the recommendations in mind as part of their budget considerations.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Executive had considered the final report of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group as attached to Report OS.33/11; and
2. That a further response to the recommendations contained within the final report would be provided at the next meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to a reference from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel concerning Disabled Facilities Grants