



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

---

**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
10 NOVEMBER 2022**

**MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT POLICY 2022 - 2023**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present for consideration the ***Disabled Facilities Grant Policy 2022 - 2023*** (the Policy) which outlines the approach of the Councils Private Sector Housing Officers in relation to the dispensation of the Better Care Fund for the purposes of delivering grants for disabled adaptations in District.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the ***Disabled Facilities Grant Policy 2022 – 2023 (APPENDIX 1)*** be adopted as Council policy.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Council is required to provide Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (the Act). The Act explicitly covers the provision of mandatory DFGs upon receipt of an Occupational Therapist recommendation. Applicants also must satisfy a Test of Resources looking at income and savings which determines whether they will have to contribute towards a Grant.
- 3.2 The DFG monies are now part the Better Care Fund and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Housing have increased the amount given to Local Authorities significantly in recent years. In 2016 / 17 the amount rose from £220m to £395m reaching £505m in 2019 / 20.
- 3.3 This Policy seeks to formalise the processes involved in the dispensation of the Better Care Fund in line with the Act.

**4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Policy gives information on the types of grant assistance available, the eligibility criteria, guidance on making applications and services standards to be expected.
- 4.2 The adoption of this Policy will provide the necessary context within which the Better Care Fund can be utilised.

## 5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

5.1 The DFG Policy supports the Councils Core Values of:

- Having a Customer Focus;
- Being Ambitious;
- Collaborating to Deliver.

5.2 The DFG Policy further supports the Councils Community Thematic Strategy:

- Working with our communities and partners to improve the physical health and well-being of our residents;
- Working with our communities and partners to improve the mental health and well-being of our residents;
- Building on the strengths of our communities and what they can do to support themselves and help each other to thrive;
- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our vulnerable children, adults and families.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The DFG Policy seeks to provide a framework within which Housing can help vulnerable residents across our District lead independent and dignified lives.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The DFG Policy seeks to improve the living circumstances of some of the most marginalised or isolated people in our district.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Failure to have an active DFG Policy could lead to the Housing failing to correctly administer the Better Care Fund.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – Successful delivery of DFG Policy will help vulnerable residents across the District enjoy their homes more and help improve health outcomes

### Background Papers:

Disabled Facilities Grant Policy 2022 - 2025 (**APPENDIX 1**).

### Enquiries to:

Damien Ghela, Lead Specialist (Community),  
Paul Duguid, Housing Specialist (PSH)