

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1 December 2008

From: Lead Member for Housing: Councillor Dreda Forster

Subject: Disabled Facilities Grant

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The current budget for this financial year for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) has been fully committed and further applications have been received, but there is a current estimated underspend of £48,338 on the Minor Repairs budget due to lack of take up.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

2.1.1 **Members approve the virement of £20,000 from the Minor Repairs budget to the Disabled Facilities Grant budget.**

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE KEY PRIORITIES/AMBITIONS

3.1 **Priority:** To Meet the Housing Needs of our Residents

3.2 **Ambition:** For people to maintain their independence, health and well being in their own homes for as long as possible.

3.3 **Outcome:** People can be given help and support to remain in the place they consider their home for as long as possible.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The annual budget for DFG has been £60,000 for a number of years, financed by £36,000 in subsidy from Communities and Local Government (CLG) and £24,000 from Council resources. This has been supplemented in 2008/09 by additional funding through the Regional Housing Board from Single Housing Investment Pot (SHIP) 3 Objective 4 monies of £33,000.

4.2 The combined total of £93,000 is reduced by 10% for management fees, leaving a budget of £83,700. All of this budget has been committed with 13 adaptations already completed and 15 adaptations approved but yet to be completed. This leaves 6 referrals which are active but not yet approved and completed (value £31,800) on the

waiting list. Without any further budget, these referrals would have to remain on the waiting list.

5.0 2008/2009 PERFORMANCE

- 5.1 The current performance is above the combined target set for this financial year of 40 jobs (20 Disabled Facilities Grant and 20 Minor Repairs Grant) completed to properties, which maintains and helps people to continue living independently in the community.
- 5.2 Minor Repairs Grant is a means tested grant which results quite often in applicants not proceeding with works once they realise there is a contribution to be made. To date there have been 9 approved works (value £24,467) and two estimates outstanding (value £6,000) totalling £30,467. It appears unlikely that our Minor Repairs target this financial year will be met. Slippage was identified of £18,855 and carried over from 2007/2008.
- 5.3 If, as recommended, £20,000 is transferred to DFG there would be £28,388 left in the budget to cover any minor repair grant work that might come forward in the last financial quarter up until 31 March 2009. A total of £103,394 of DFG work is already approved and without additional budget would result in a shortfall of £19,694.

6.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Financial Implications: No impact on the overall budget.
- 6.2 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications
No further work is carried out this financial year.	Service delivery Reputational	Vulnerable people left in need of adaptations which impacts on their quality of life. Reputational as work already approved will not be carried out with adverse effects on those clients.
The Disabled Facilities Grant is overspent.	Financial	There may not be sufficient resources to finance the capital programme

- 6.3 Equality and Diversity: Makes reasonable adjustments for people to exercise choice and remain living independently.
- 6.4 Human Resources: None
- 6.5 Community Safety: None
- 6.6 Legal Issues: None

Background papers:

Author: Graham Pilkington
Housing Strategy Manager
01833 696286