

West Suffolk Council

Portfolio Holder Decisions Notice

(Published: Wednesday 22 June 2022)

The following decision was taken by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Health on Tuesday 21 June 2022 and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Thursday 30 June 2022. An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, by at least five councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory) (e-mail: democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk) **by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 29 June 2022**. Should you have a query regarding any of the decisions taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, the relevant portfolio holder or via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU.

Agenda item and report number	Declarations of interest	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for decision(s)	Other options considered and reasons for rejection	Contacts
No agenda item as Portfolio Holder decision Paper number: CAB/WS/22/025	None	<p>West Suffolk Council Housing Assistance Policy</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the proposed changes to the West Suffolk Housing Assistance Policy to increase the maximum threshold of the Fast Track Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) from £7,000 to £15,000, be approved.</p>	West Suffolk Council had responsibility for the administration of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), which were funded through the Better Care Fund. The Council had developed a successful Suffolk wide partnership – Independent Living Suffolk (ILS) and had streamlined the process by which to deliver adaptations to enable residents to continue to live within their own homes.	The option of not increasing the threshold was also considered. However, this would mean that customers were waiting longer to adaptations, as they would be pushed into the mandatory DFG route to access a higher	<p>Portfolio holder: Sara Mildmay-White Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Health 01359 270580</p> <p>Officer: Jennifer Eves Director (Human Resources, Governance</p>

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			<p>In 2020/21 the Council established a Fast Track DFG, designed to speed up the process for those simple, relatively low cost, routine adaptations and to maximise the impact to the wider healthcare system, thereby, preventing hospital, care home or residential home admissions and to facilitate prompt discharge of residents from hospital.</p> <p>The Fast Track DFG was essential for the Council to deliver its objectives of helping as many of its residents as quickly as possible to get the adaptations they needed to remain independent in their own homes and maximising the impact of the DFG allocation to residents within the budget year.</p> <p>This proposed amendment to increase the maximum threshold of the grant would</p>	<p>threshold grant. The cost of works were continuing to rise and the works which were completed via a Fast Track DFG would be cheaper than the works completed in six months time via a mandatory DFG.</p> <p>Not increasing the threshold would also mean the loss of the flexibility and swiftness that the Fast Track offered in supporting hospital discharge and</p>	<p>and Regulatory) 01284 757015</p>

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			<p>ensure the grant remained available for use for those less complex, common works, as prices and inflation rises. In doing so, the Council would enable residents to remain living independently in their own homes for longer, improving their quality of life and reducing the burden on the health and social care services.</p>	<p>prevention work. Fewer adaptations would also be processed, as would then be reliant on the Suffolk County Council Occupational Therapist assessment process.</p>	

Jennifer Eves
 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)
 22 June 2022