

**TITLE: INCREASED CAPITAL FUNDING FOR MANDATORY DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS**

**Committee: Regulatory and Support Services Committee**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

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**[R14]**

**1.0 ISSUE**

1.1 To advise Members of increased capital funding for Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and seek approval for additional administrative resource to process increased workload.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 Members are requested to note the increased capital allocation for DFG's through the Better Care Fund (BCF), and, Members agree that a small proportion of the increased revenue from fees be used to recruit a part time, fixed term administrative officer to facilitate the additional DFGs that will be generated by the additional grant funding.

**3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The allocation for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) 16/17 has increased drastically through the Better Care Fund (BCF) seen in Table 1 below (Source of capital funding). This increase in capital funding will enable the Council to address the increased demand for DFGs that has accumulated over the past 18 months in the district.

3.2 Currently there is a waiting list of 90 residents requiring adaptations to their properties. The estimated cost of these works totals £594,000. In addition to these, additional applications for adaptations will be referred to the Council from Occupational Health during the remainder of the financial year.

**Source of capital funding:**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>
Better Care fund (BCF)	£259,739	£472,949
ECDC	£186,000	£186,000
Sanctuary	£100,000	£100,000
Total	£545,739	£758,949

3.3 East Cambridgeshire Care and Repair Services currently have:

- 1 part time administrator;
- 1 part time Technical officer;
- 1 full time caseworker (vacant post);
- 1 full time Senior caseworker

3.4 The additional grant allocation will result in more DFGs being approved and implemented.

3.5 In order for the service to process and commit the additional allocated funding of £209,949, increased administrative support is required. This will enable the technical officers/case workers to undertake home visits to carry out financial assessments and survey the properties for the necessary work.

3.6 The fee income anticipated from processing the capital budget allocated to East Cambridgeshire for 16/17 will be a total of £81,000 which is an increase of £31,000 compared to 15/16. The increased fee income would cover the cost of a part-time (3 days a week) administrative post, which would provide support to both the Care and Repair team and grants officers within the domestic section, who process the grant approvals.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The additional capital funding allocated to the Council through the BCF will increase the work load of the Care and Repair team as well as the administration of grant approvals by the Domestic team in Environmental Services.

4.2 To provide an effective and efficient service and ensure that residents receive the support they need to remain in their own homes additional administrative support is required to free up both the case workers and technical officers time to undertake home visits to assess eligibility for financial support and survey the properties relating to the improvements/adaptations required.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The cost of employing an additional part time administrator (3 days) on scale 3 would be between £11,673- 12,822. The funding of this post will be covered by the increase in fee income.

<b>BUDGET - source</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>15/16</b>
BCF	£472,949.00	264,000
ECDC	£186,000.00	189,000
Sanctuary	£100,000	100,000
Total Budget	£758,949.00	553,000
Mandatory Fee @12% estimated income of	£81,000	50,000

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
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