

RECORD OF OFFICER / MATERIAL DECISION

Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Decision Date – 28/11/2023

Decision Maker: Executive Director of housing and community safety

Decision status: Determined

Is Key decision?: No

Is subject to call in?: No

Decision details: To agree and publish a new Housing Assistance Policy for Independent Living, available [here](#).

- 1) This new policy aims to provide a better financial offer to vulnerable, disabled and low-income families. In particular, the changes to existing financial offers are reflective of the rising cost of living and inflationary rises in the construction sector.
- 2) The new financial offers have been informed through work with our commissioning partners as well as identifying gaps in provision with our ASB colleagues.

The new policy offers at a glance.

Assistance	Funding Max	Financial Eligibility	Objective	Available to:		
				Council Tenants	Owner Occupiers	Other Renters*
Enabling Carers Adaptation Grant	Up To £30,000	Means Tested	A DFG that also considers the needs of carers	✓	✓	✓
Home Safety Grant	£10,000	Referrals from the councils ASB team or Home Improvement Team Caseworkers	To increase home security measures for people experiencing ASB and/or domestic abuse.	✓	✓	✓

Changes to existing assistances

Assistance	Key Changes	Reasoning
DFG Calculated Contribution Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased grant limit from £5k to £6.5k • Limit the grant to one per an OT recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reflect inflation rising costs associated with adaptations works. The increase will match the projected price rises to our schedule of rates and should cover the average cost of a single grant. • The limiting the grant to one per an OT recommendation closes an unintended loophole of the previous policy, where people who were assessed as being able to contribute to the works were only undertaking one aspect of the recommendation.

Assistance	Key Changes	Reasoning
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were occasions where clients then came back at a later date to undertake the remaining work and being eligible for further funding.
Hospital Discharge Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the grant limit from £10k to 15k. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst to date, no hospital discharge grant has exceeded the grant limit, this increase will meet inflationary rises and give greater scope for funding works to aid discharge from hospital.
Preventing admission to Hospital Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the grant limit from £10k to 15k. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above for hospital discharge grant.
Home Improvement Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the loan limit from £35k to £50k. Changes the qualifying criteria from a bespoke means test to the government standard criteria for providing grant funds to low- income households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect inflation rises to construction works and provide more financial help to families when required. To provide assistances to more families and align with a national standard definition for qualifying for assistances.
DFG Top Up Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes the upper limit amount of the loan. Changes the qualifying criteria from recipients of a DFG to the government standard criteria for providing grant funds to low- income households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To remove cost restrictions for adaptation. It is unlikely that loans will exceed the amount previously set, but there is evidence that in certain circumstances, building the right adaptations which may be costly will provide stability for families and makes greater savings in the long term across health and social care. To provide assistances only to families who need financial support.

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