

Decision Number: 32 (2019/21)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject:

Altering the discretionary grant maximum associated with the District Council's Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy (2020-22).

Details of Decision taken

Increasing the maximum level of funding for Accelerated Facilities Grants (AFGs) from £6,500 to £8,000 and from £1,000 to £3,000 on Safe and Secure Grants.

Reason for Decision

Since the introduction of the non-means tested discretionary AFG in November 2017 and a current £6,500 limit, the majority of customers have used this grant to obtain much-needed adaptations. However, we have seen an increase in overall costs associated with adaptations, partly linked to increased costs from the supply chain due to COVID-19 as well adaptations taking longer than usual due to safety precautions linked with the Pandemic. We are also seeing a number of our clients with more complex needs, meaning adaptations are becoming more costly as well as the integration of more modern assistive technologies. Given these increased costs associated with AFGs, it is necessary to raise the grant maximum to £8,000.

Since the introduction of the SSGs, we have seen an increase in a number of referrals for hoarding and filthy and verminous cases requiring clearance and minor repairs. We are finding that the current maximum is not sufficient to

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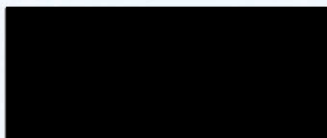

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undertake all the necessary remedial works to ensure clients are safe and can remain in the property independently. Given the costs now associated with SSGs, formal agreement it is necessary to raise the grant maximum to £3,000.
All Documents considered: Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy (2020-22). https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1043/housing_assistance_policy.pdf
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision: None
Financial implications There would be no financial implications for District Council budgets this is all funded via Government's Better Care Fund, which is allocated to the District Council annually.
Legal Implications and Risk Assessment This would the District Council to meet its statutory obligations and to provide remedial works without the need for enforcement action.
Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty) This would have a positive impact on end users.
Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted None

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Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
Decision taken by:	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	11 / 01 / 2021.
Record made by:	
Date of record:	12.01.21

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