


(For Committee Team's use)

Decision Number: 05 (2012/13)

Portfolio Holder Decision

Subject: Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) Applications	
Taken by: Cllr Carol Clark	Date of decision: 21.06.12
Details of Decision: To undertake a pilot scheme of using private Occupational Therapists (OT's) to expedite processing time for DFG applications and provide an improved service to vulnerable residents.	
Documents considered: Delivering Housing Adaptations for Disabled People: A good practice Guide June 2006 Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 The Housing Renewal Grants (Services and Charges) Order 1996 paragraph 2(2)	
Reasons for Decision: <p>There have been significant delays with Kent County Council OT's, some delays have been in excess of 12 months especially when obtaining essential appropriate OT recommendations in paediatric cases</p> <p>The consequences are that Council Officer time is inefficiently utilised, the ability to plan and control expenditure adequately is compromised, the customers experience of accessing this Council service is poor and the DFG applicant has to endure prolonged unnecessary hardship.</p> <p>To engage a private OT incurs a small cost ranging from £250 up to £500 for more complex cases. This cost is grant eligible. 5 paediatric applications have been identified for this pilot. The pilot will then be reviewed to ascertain the best way forward.</p>	
Local Member(s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service consulted. Cllr Carol Clark Portfolio Holder for Housing Balanced Communities Kristen Paterson Director Pat Smith Head of Housing and Communications	
Signed by Portfolio Holder:	
Record made by: V. ETHERIDGE	Date: 21/6/12

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail