



Title: **Disability Facilities Grant (DFG)**

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## 1 Introduction

This report is to provide Members with an update on (Private Sector) Disability Facility Grants (DFG's) demand for the 2015/16 financial year and the level of top-up funding required.

## 2 Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the additional capital funding of £ 78,068 be made available to meet demand which has been recommended from Service Delivery Committee of 7 July 2015

## 3 Information

The provision of DFG's is mandatory once a need has been identified to provide adaptations to disabling environments so that the occupier can remain living independently at home. There is a significant return on investment to the public purse from these grants because they delay the need for residential care. The maximum grant is £30,000 however the average grant is approximately £7,000.

DFGs are funded through Government Grants though there has been a need year-on-year for these to be supplemented by contributions from the Council. This year's allocation for OWBC is £177,000, please see *appendix 1*, 'Better Care Fund' 2015/16 for further information.

**Table 1 Current and Historical Budget**

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/2016
Government Grant	£166,490	£138,717	£143,000	£177,000
Carry forward (slippage)	£139,488	£111,582	£4,920	£163,719
OWBC contribution	£144,022	£161,283	£257,000	£0
Total DFG Budget	£450,000	£411,582	£404,920	£340,719

Last year a top-up of £257,000 was provided to ensure demand could continue to be met. This was based on a small carry forward figure and what turned out to be an over estimate of demand

**Table 2 Grants Completed or in Progress**

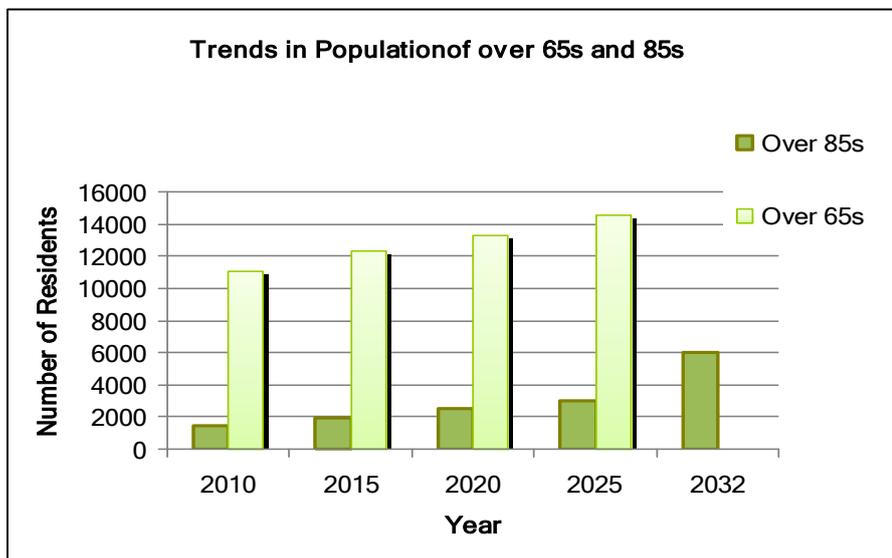
<b>Adaptation</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/2015</b>
Level Access Shower	55	57
Bathroom Extensions	-	2
Stair Lift	17	17
Other	3	4
Cancelled	8	21
Total	83	101

Please note: The majority of level access shower conversions are to houses and include a stair lift or in some instances a through floor lift. "Other" includes ramps, door entry systems, and specialist bathing and toilet installations.

**Predicted Demand**

Demand for DFGs is expected to increase due to an ageing population and advances in medical technology which has increased survival rates for people with severe disabilities.

**Figure 1 Trend of Residents over 65 and 85.**



The number of residents over 65 and 85 has been increasing and is predicted to increase further in the future.

## Current Demand

The table below provides an analysis of demand for 2015/16

**Figure 2**

Unpaid approvals carried forward to 15/16	£137,380	Already committed spend
Referrals in progress	£197,407	Expected to be submitted for approval
Approximate number of new referrals expected to be completed and paid 15/16	£84,000	Estimate: 2 new referrals per month April to September 2015 to be completed by March 2016 (12 x £7,000)
Total Demand	£418,787	
<b>Additional budget required to meet current and predicted demand 2015/6</b>	<b>£78,068</b>	After taking off government grant and carry forward which total £340,719 (see table 1)

## Further Information

This year's programme is funded through the Better Care Fund and discussions and plans are underway to look at the future funding and delivery of Disability Facilities grant for 2016/17 through the Better Care transitional arrangement through Leicestershire County Council.

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<b>Implications</b>	
Financial (PL)	CR5 Effective utilisation of resources/assets. In delivering the programme, Officers will seek to help the maximum number of households within the budget that is available. Spend on this budget will achieve a significant return on investment by removing the need for residential care.
Risk (APM)	CR6 Regulatory Governance. CR4 Reputation.
Equalities (AC)	No Significant Implications
Legal (AC)	No Significant Implications

## BETTER CARE FUND 2015/16

### PROCESS FOR PAYMENT OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

#### Introduction

This discussion document sets out a proposal for the payment of Disabled Facilities Grants to District Councils in 2015/16.

#### Background

Disabled Facilities grants (DFGs) are grants provided by local authorities to help meet the cost of adapting a property for the needs of a disabled person.

In recent years DFG funding has been paid to District Councils directly from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), however from 2015/16 this funding will be incorporated into the Better Care Fund (BCF) and paid to Leicestershire County Council.

As a result of this change in practice, it has become necessary to arrange a new mechanism for payment DFG funding to district councils from 2015/16.

#### DFG Allocations

The DFG funding allocation for Leicestershire totals £1.7m for 2015/16. Individual district allocations are detailed in the table below:

District	Allocation £'000
Blaby District Council	256
Charnwood Borough Council	425
Harborough District Council	199
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	250
Melton Borough Council	133
North West Leicestershire District Council	298
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	177
	<b>1,738</b>

Guidance from NHS England stipulates that DFG funding will have to be allocated to District Councils in order for them to meet their statutory duties.

#### Process

In the absence of guidance from the DCLG for payment of DFG's in 2015/16, the following process is proposed:

- District Council's will issue an invoice to the County Council for their DFG allocation as detailed above.
- The invoice shall not be dated before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

- Invoice to be marked for the attention of Richard George and sent to the following address:
  - Leicestershire County Council, PO Box 507, Sale, Cheshire M33 0EJ.
- The County Council will pay the invoice within its normal 30 day payment policy.
- For the purposes of audit, District Council's shall maintain appropriate financial records to record expenditure and at the end of the financial year complete a certificate of expenditure. (The format of the certificate has yet to be designed, but is likely to be 'light touch').
- In the event of an under spend the district council must notify the LCC Assistant Finance Business Partner at the earliest opportunity. Under spends
  - Shall be returned to the County Council for re-investment in the Better Care Fund.
  - No additional Better Care Fund funding will be paid if a district council overspends against its DFG allocation.

### **Other Issues**

This process for payment of DFG allocations will be for 2015/16 only. The situation will be reviewed for 2016/17 taking into account of any changes through the integration of housing adaptations services across Leicestershire (Light Bulb Project).

The statutory responsibility for the provision of DFGs will remain with district councils.

### **Recommendations**

Section 151 Officers are requested to:

- Note the contents of this report and provide comments on this proposal

### **Officer to Contact:**

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