



Lightbulb Programme Board & Steering Group Meeting – 26th January 2018

THE DISABLED FACILITIES CAPITAL GRANT DETERMINATION – ADDITIONAL FUNDING 2017/18 [31/3175]

Background

On 24th January 2018 Chief Executives received notification from the **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government)** (“the Minister”) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of the Disabled Facilities Capital Grant Determination – Additional funding 2017/18 **[31/3175]**.

The purpose of this grant is to provide support to Tier 2 authorities, unitary authorities and London Boroughs in England towards capital expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them.

Before making this determination in relation to local authorities in England, the Minister obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Current Position

The table below details what this additional money means in respect of each of Leicestershire’s local authority areas.

	2017/18 Final Allocation (£)	Additional Funding Accepted	Division of unclaimed funding	2017/18 Revised Allocation (£)	2017/18 Quarter 2 Forecast Outturn *(£)	Variance from revised Allocation (£)
Blaby DC	499,481	48,452	4,353	552, 286	566,349	18,416
Charnwood BC	846,293	83,849	*	930,142	920,000	- 10,142
Harborough BC	385,744	37,155	4,353	427,252	450,000	27,101
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	439,674	37,657	4,353	481,684	627,000	149,669
Melton BC	259,427	25,105	4,353	288,885	192,000	- 92,532
North West Leics DC	572,989	54,728	4,353	632, 070	391,000	- 236,717
Oadby & Wigston BC	346,261	33,640	4,353	384, 254	340,000	- 39,901
TOTAL	3,349,869	320,586*	26,118*	3, 696,573	3,486,349	- 184,106

*On the documentation received yesterday Charnwood were not included in the list regarding a division of the unclaimed funding.

The total amount of additional DFG Funding for Leicestershire is **£346,704*** (This figure is made up of the claimed and unclaimed funding), The claimed funding was discussed at the Chief Executives Meeting on 11th January 2018 and it was agreed that an options paper should be developed and this should go through Lightbulb’s governance. We did not know about the unclaimed funding until the correspondence on this came out this week, we have included the total amount available as part of the options detailed below.

Options

The Lightbulb Team contacted Foundations to seek advice on the funding and find out how other localities were planning to spend the additional money. The feedback we received was that in other areas across the country most local authorities were using the funds to cover the costs of DFG’s that were already in the system or to cover costs that had already been incurred. The money needs to be spent by March 2018.

For the districts where Lightbulb is responsible for their DFG spend the amount spent each quarter would indicate that the additional funding in the main could be used to cover the cost of DFG’s for Quarter four. This then leaves a potential underspend in the funding already allocated to each area and the options detailed below are in respect of that funding.

Option	Cost	Fors	Against
1. To cover the costs associated with Lightbulb Roll out	IT costs to roll out the project – £60,225 Accommodation- £3,003 Warm & Healthy Homes - £33,457 Total £96,685	Transformation fund is flexible and can be used for revenue or capital spends. We could equate this spend to the Lightbulb demand data. (Appendix A)	
2. HET Team funding re capital spend 2018/19	£35,500.	This covers IT, furniture, rent, clean & clear costs	Staffing costs agreed in principle but not confirmed.
3. Extension of the HET to the Community Hospitals	£189,619 in total of which £24,570 is capital.	Provide the same service across all the hospitals, save money across health & social care. Includes capital expenditure.	This would require capital budgets to be converted to revenue to fund the whole project. The bid to extend the service is going to the February Integration Group, this may

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			not be supported.
4. Extend the Home Support Grant that is offered in Blaby across all localities as part of the Lightbulb offer.	£210,000 (£30,000 per district) Could reduce the amount per district	Helps vulnerable people remain independent in their own home by improving their property. Means Tested, support not provided by the DFG.	
5. Cover the additional warranty for stair lifts and through floor lifts out of the DFG grant (Charnwood are already doing this). The additional warranty for a stair lift costs £350 for the three years	Over the last year Blaby has completed 36 stair lifts this would equate to an additional DFG spend of £ 12,600. Approx. total £75,600	Stair lifts and through floor lifts are repaired, rather than the person applying for another DFG where the equipment is broken.	We have already informed Service users that they need to cover the cost of this themselves. Only certain parts are covered by the extended warranty.
6. Overspend in the Major adaptations budget.	Approx. £100,000	Supports a whole countywide approach.	This is County funding rather than district spend.
7. Clean & Clear budget for the Housing Support Coordinators to access.	£105,000. (£15,000 per district) Could reduce the amount per district	Assist vulnerable individuals and mean that we would not have to go down the enforcement route. Prevention of falls.	
8. Dementia Friendly Homes	£50,000 starting budget to trial this out. (£6,000 per district).	More flexible use of the DFG funding. RRO already drafted. Supports people with poor mental wellbeing.	Is not a quick win, will take time to put in place.
9. Additional temporary Lightbulb staff to progress DFG cases.	Technical officer £38,007 , Housing Support Coordinator £32,076 inc. on-costs.	Improve DFG Performance and mean we could focus on long running cases.	This would require capital budgets to be converted to revenue. Time to recruit to these posts.

Recommendations

The Programme Board is requested to:

- a) Note the contents of this report
- b) Discuss and agree which options we should fund.
- c) Support Lightbulb in progressing the options that are agreed.

APPENDIX A

Local Authority	Percentage of Lightbulb Demand	Percentage of capital spend that can be attributed to LA Area
Blaby DC	13%	£12, 569.05
Charnwood BC	26%	£25,138.10
Harborough BC	10%	£9,668.50
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	18%	£17,403.30
Melton BC	9%	£8,701.65
North West Leicester DC	15%	£14,502.75
Oadby & Wigston BC	9%	£8,701.65
TOTAL		£96,685

26/01/2018