

7TH SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ASSETS AND FINANCE

INCREASE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET TO REFLECT BETTER CARE FUND ALLOCATION

EXEMPT INFORMATION

NON CONFIDENTIAL/CONFIDENTIAL

PURPOSE

This report:-

- Seeks approval to issue an invoice to Staffordshire County Council for the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation from the Better Care Fund less the **proposed** deductions.
- Seeks approval to increase and spend the capital budget to reflect the actual allocation from the Better Care Fund (BCF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that Cabinet approve the issuance of an invoice to Staffordshire County Council for the sum of £362,074.31 to reflect the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation from the Better Care Fund less **the proposed** deductions.
- It is recommended that Cabinet increase the Capital Budgets and approve spend from the Capital Budgets to reflect the actual allocation from the Better Care Fund in 2017/18 amounting to an increase in budget and spend of £138,070.
- It is recommended that Cabinet increase the Capital Budgets and approve spend from the Capital Budgets to reflect the additional allocation of £42,000 from the Better Care Fund in 2016/17.
- It is recommend that authority be delegated to Executive Director of Corporate Services to increase the budget by a further £34,800 subject to the same, additional, sums being released by Staffordshire County Council following discussions over the allocations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2017/18 Capital Programme budgets include a sum of £250,000 for the delivery of the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant programme. This figure is a notional sum agreed for the budget setting process and is based on an estimate of the allocation from the Better Care Fund of £224,000 along with a further £26,000 of Tamworth Borough Council capital funding.

The BCF notification from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirms the DFG allocation for Tamworth as £413,501 for 2017/18.

It confirms that, in two-tier areas, upper tier authorities must pass the DFG funding in full to the respective Districts although it does allow for some jointly agreed spend on 'wider social care capital projects'.

It also has a condition that this must be passed down in full no later than 30th June 2017 – this will now not be achieved;

Tamworth Borough Council has now been advised of the actual allocation that will be passported from the Better Care Fund by Staffordshire County Council as £362,074.31. However, this is net of the following deductions:

£k	BCF Allocation 2017/18	Proposed Deductions		
		HIA	Minor works	Project management for systems review
Tamworth	(413,501)	16,621	14,472	20,333

Other than the deduction for the ongoing Home Improvement Agency (HIA) contract of £16,621, the deductions have been questioned and not yet agreed - which means that potentially a further £34,802 may be received following the resolution of the outstanding issues.

A further £42,000 has also been received from Staffordshire County Council in relation to an underpayment from the 2016/17 Better Care Fund allocation.

As the additional amounts being received from the Better Care Fund exceed £100,000 Cabinet approval is required in order to increase the budgets.

Sufficient work is already on the waiting list to take up the full amount.

There is an ongoing discussion with Staffordshire County Council over the sums being passported from the Better Care Fund, this could result in a further £34,802 being available at some point during the 17/18 financial year.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- An invoice is to be raised to Staffordshire County Council to reflect the proposed BCF allocation of £362,074.31
- We are in receipt of £42,000 from Staffordshire County Council relating to underpaid sums in 2016/17
- There is a potential that a further £34,802 could be made available from the Better Care Fund in 2017/18
- The original BCF estimate was £224,000 with a total DFG budget of £250,000
- The 2017/18 capital budgets be increased to £521,450 to reflect the known allocation of £430,070 and carry forward from 16/17 of £91,380
- Provision will need to be made for the 2017/18 budget to be increased by a further £34,800 once allocation discussions with Staffordshire County Council have concluded.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a requirement to spend the BCF allocation only on qualifying DFG works.• The budget will still not be sufficient to complete all of the works currently in the pipeline or on the waiting list. |
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SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Despite the additional funding being made available it will still not be sufficient to meet the demand in Tamworth.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

None

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