

**Council  
22 September 2016**

**Disabled Facilities Grant 2016/17 – Addition to the Capital Programme**

**Recommendations from the Leader**

1. That the Department of Health's annually allocated Disabled Facilities Grant of £3.511m as set out in Section 2.1 is added to the capital programme for 2016/17.
2. That any annually allocated Disabled Facilities Grant received by the County Council in future years requiring payments to be made directly to District and Borough Councils is automatically added to the Capital Programme.
3. That the Strategic Director of People Group be authorised to agree with the districts and boroughs joint strategies as to their use of Disabled Facilities Grant from time to time in consultation with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**1.0 Key Issues**

- 1.1 In 2015/16, the Disabled Facilities Grant was incorporated into the Better Care Fund, and this arrangement continues into 2016/17.
- 1.2 The grant is being included in the Better Care Fund in order to encourage areas to think strategically about the use of home aids and adaptations, use of technologies to support people in their own homes, and to take a joined up approach to improving outcomes across health, social care, and housing.
- 1.3 The grant has been paid to Warwickshire County Council; however there remains the statutory duty on local housing authorities to provide aids and adaptations under the Disabled Facilities Grant to those who qualify.
- 1.4 This grant is required to be paid directly to each district and borough council according to the Department Of Health allocations.
- 1.5 The Leader agreed on 9 September to endorse the recommendations. Due to the size of the Grant, the recommendations are before Council for approval.

**2.0 Options and Proposal**

- 2.1 The allocations for Warwickshire district and borough councils, proposed to be transferred in full, are as follows:

## Warwickshire Better Care Fund DFG Grant 2016/17

	2016/17
	£
North Warwickshire DFG	543,688
Nuneaton and Bedworth DFG	1,128,215
Rugby DFG	492,918
Stratford-on-Avon DFG	662,298
Warwick DFG	684,032
Total	3,511,151

- 2.2 The value of the Disabled Facilities Grant has increased by 82% or £1.586 million. The funding of this increase was found, in part, by the deletion nationally of the adult social care capital grant, which for Warwickshire was £1.244 million. However, the Department Of Health guidance allows the facility through local planning and agreement, for potential investment in broader strategic capital projects. Discussions with housing colleagues have highlighted this change and this potential local flexibility.
- 2.3 The full DFG allocations as set out in the table above are proposed to be transferred to District and Borough Councils as directed by the Department of Health. The Department of Health guidelines state that spending plans need to be jointly developed and agreed, but the funds would be held by District and Borough Councils.
- 2.4 The Strategic Director of People Group will be responsible for providing assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that all expenditure is in line with national and local policy.

### 3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

Once the decision has been made the funds will be distributed to District and Borough Councils as outlined above.

### Background papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication for the Leader decision on 9 September: Councillors Seccombe, Butlin, Western, Morris-Jones, Dirveiks, N.Davies.