

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION - NO SPECIFIC POWERS

ACTION FOR WHICH CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS DELEGATED POWERS

SERIAL NO *BDC-0001*

SUBJECT MATTER: The Implementation of a Regulatory Reform Order for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, allowing for greater flexibility in awarding Disabled Facilities Grants.

Specifically: To approve a Regulatory Reform Order Policy, which will allow the Councils to use their discretion and flexibility when awarding Disabled Facilities Grants

MEETING TO WHICH MATTER RELATES:

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinet Meetings

REASON FOR ACTION BEING TAKEN OUT OF MEETING:

The Cabinet Meeting has been cancelled due to the 'pre-election period' for the General Election taking place on 12th December. This means the Policy cannot be considered now until January 2020.

BACKGROUND:

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO), gives Local Authorities the power to develop their own policy to assist their residents to maintain and adapt their homes to ensure that they are safe and suitable for them to live in.

The Housing Assistance Policy has been developed to allow Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (The Councils) to make best use of their Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding. This will enable the Councils to meet their strategic priorities and work collaboratively with health and social care colleagues to provide better outcomes for residents.

The Housing Assistance Policy (HAP) sets out how Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will offer assistance to disabled residents to improve accessibility to and suitability of their accommodation.

The HAP allows Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to meet the aspirations set out in their Corporate Plan and Homes and Housing Strategies to ensure that *everyone has a suitable home, and residents are able to live as healthily, safely, independently as possible within sustainable communities (Homes and Housing Strategy 2019)*.

The key objectives of the Housing Assistance Policy are: -

- To ensure residents are able to live as healthily, safely and independently as possible
- To help prevent hospital, care home or residential home admissions
- To facilitate the prompt discharge of residents from hospital
- To prevent the need for increased expenditure elsewhere in the 'Suffolk System', including Health and Social Care

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

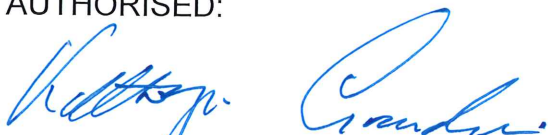
Each year, we are allocated Grant Funding from Suffolk County Council through the Better Care Fund. This money is ring-fenced for Disabled Facilities Grants.

At the end of Quarter 2, 2019/20, the spend at Babergh was £59,201, which is 10% of the budget and was £125,166 at Mid Suffolk, which is 21% of the budget.

It is important we make best use of the money available and increase the number of grants we award.

The grants awarded will enable residents to remain more independently and safely in their homes and should reduce costly hospital admissions.

ACTION AUTHORISED:



DATE ACTION AUTHORISED:

..... 10th December 2019.

I have been consulted on this matter details of which are given above and have no observations to make.

Chairman of Babergh District Council

I being the duly authorised officer authorise the taking of the action referred to above

Signed
Chief Executive



Date: 9th December 2019

Details reported to Council for noting.

- (NOTE: (i) This form to be completed and given to Committee Services for inclusion in the Register of Delegated Action and for reporting to the appropriate Committee. The signature of the Chief Executive should be obtained prior to the form being sent to Committee Services.