

Appendix A

Discretionary Disabled Facilities Assistance - Draft

Purpose

To provide the disabled person with additional options in addition to the statutory Disabled Facilities Grant.

1. Disabled Facilities Grant Top Up

Purpose

To provide a top up to the Disabled Facilities Grant where the cost of essential works exceeds the maximum grant.

Applicant Eligibility

Where a Disabled Facilities Grant has been approved and the cost of the relevant works exceed the maximum grant then the council using office delegated authority will use the following method to assess eligibility.

The maximum level of Disabled Facilities Grant Top Up that can be provided is £10,000.

In making this award the officer will take the following guidance into account:

1. Alternative Methods of Meeting the disabled person needs.

Where an alternative method of meeting the person needs is deemed to be more cost effective than a Disabled Facilities Grant Top Up will not be considered, such as moving to a more suitable home.

Means Test

The Disabled Facilities Grant means test will be applied to assess the contribution that can be made by parents in the case of adaptation for all top ups. The children's exclusion which allow children's applications to be none means tested will not apply. It would be expected that the disabled person or parent of a disabled child agrees to make their assessed contribution before a top up is considered.

2. Other Sources of Funding

The availability of other sources of funding that the applicant can access including equity release, loan schemes, charities, remortgaging and private loans. Tenants will need to show that the funding cannot be provided by their landlord.

Eligible Works

Works that have received approval for Disabled Facilities Grant and that exceed the maximum grant.

Conditions

Should the applicant be an owner occupier then a legal charge for 15 years will be made on the property.

Further Provision in the case of a Grant not being provided under officer Delegate Authority

If the application cannot be granted under officer delegate authority or the sum required is in excess of £10,000 then the applicant can request that the matter is put forward as special case for consideration by the Director in discussion with the Head of Service who will consider the merits of providing the assistance and decide whether to make the financial award. The applicant would need to show that their case is exceptional providing information to support their case.

2. Move on Assistance

Purpose

To provide disabled people financial help up to £1,000 to help move to a more suitable home.

Applicant Eligibility

A disabled person who would be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant, who's needs would be better met in an alternative property within Wiltshire.

Pre-requisites to assistance being given:

- Re-housing must be deemed to be a more suitable and cost effective option that will fully meet the needs of the disabled person and their family. Any grant paid should be less than what would have been paid to meet the needs in their existing home.

Conditions

Any payment will be made on completion
The move on housing must be within Wiltshire