

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being))

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 8th September 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Housing Services on the Disabled Facilities Grant Budget. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has noted that there has been an increase in demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) in 2011/12 and consequently there are insufficient funds to progress a number of cases in the current year. It is estimated that to maintain the current level of service, an increase of £1.116m would be required to the 2011/12 budget. The Panel has noted that there are a number of different service levels that can be provided to those who required adaptations to their homes, which would result in differing delays to completion times. Members have also advised there is an option for authorities to defer payment of approved cases for up to 12 months but this cannot be used to limit demand or reduce expenditure. It merely defers the problem to the following year.
- 2.2 In considering the options which are available, Members have been reminded that Cabinet has previously agreed that applications for DFGs should be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. Having recognised that any delay in providing DFGs could have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of those who require adaptations, Members are of the opinion that the Council should continue with its current policy and the Cabinet is invited to approve a supplementary capital estimate with no delays in applicants receiving adaptations to their homes.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the discussions of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) as part of their deliberations on this item.

Contact Officer: A Roberts, Scrutiny and Review Manager
 **01480 388015**

Background Documents

Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) held on 8th September 2011.