

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Environmental Health & Housing

Head of Service: Jeremy W Mann

Lead Officer: Wendy Slate

Date of Assessment: 08/07/2021

Person responsible for completing the assessment: J W Mann

E-mail address: jeremy.mann@northdevon.gov.uk

Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:

Financial Assistance Policy for the Better Care Fund

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: The introduction of “Discretionary Disabled Facility Grants” (DFG) and the Housing Financial Assistance Policy allows for DFG funds, which sit within the Better Care Fund (BCF), to be used more flexibly. The policy allows discretionary DFGs to be used to provide assistance to help a greater number of residents remain living in their own home independently and safely. DFGs are used to help disabled or older residents living in the private sector make adaptations to their home, so that they can continue living there. Local authorities are required to facilitate mandatory DFGs where certain conditions are met. These can include widening of doors, installing ramps and improving access to shower facilities. In addition to mandatory DFGs, local authorities have discretionary powers to award grants and use funding for a wider range of resources, works and adaptations to help reach a greater number of residents. Local authorities must publish a policy in order to use these discretionary powers to spend DFG money more flexibly. It must be noted that mandatory DFGs are a statutory obligation and as such must take precedence over discretionary grants. NDC is being awarded a BCF grant of £1,510,574 for 2021/22, an uplift of £532K. The proposal allocates this funding to specific interventions in the Council’s financial assistance policy.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: July 2021.

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

The increase in funding will help a greater number of residents remain living in their own home.

Impact:

Protected groups	Positive	Negative
Age	The increase in funding will improve service delivery for elderly residents.	There will be no negative impact.
Disability	The increase in funding will improve service delivery and enable more adaptations to be completed for disabled residents.	There will be no negative impact.
Gender (sex)	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.
Gender reassignment	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.
Marriage and civil partnership	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.
Pregnancy and maternity	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.
Racial ethnicity	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.
Religion and belief, including non-belief	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.
Sexual orientation	No identified positive impact.	There will be no negative impact.

Consideration of Alternatives:

The proposal is entirely consistent with Government's BCF Policy.

Consultation:

The proposal has been shared with the Leader and Lead Member for Housing.

Funding Considerations:

BCF grant passported to NDC from DCC.

Date approved by Head of Service: 08/07/2021

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

EIAs will be completed when the Financial Assistance Policy is updated.

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

Quarterly ongoing through the Performance and Financial Management Reports to Strategy and Resources Committee.

Date approved by Head of Service: 08/07/2021

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC Website: 14/7/21