

## Disabled Facilities Grants

1 Following the allocation of £1.020m of funding to this service at Council in July 2015, Council requested an update of Disable Facilities Grant Expenditure in 2015/16. The service has provided the following information.

### 2 Summary:

DFG spend 2015/16 as at August 2015:

Status	Amount
Waiting for approval*	£75,841
Works approved/started on site	£291,111
Paid to date	£158,678
<b>Total</b>	<b>£525,630</b>

\*16 cases that are being processed. There is no waiting list.

### 3 What is a DFG?

Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) are available from local authorities. They are issued subject to a means test and are available for essential adaption's to give disabled people better freedom of movement into and around their homes, and give access to essential facilities within the home.

### 4 Historically how much has the local authority spent on DFG'S?

Year	Spend £	Home Improvement Agency
2010/11	638,341	Pluss
2011/12	572,272	
2012/13	459,014	
2013/14	670,018	Transition from Pluss and service run in house during transition period to new contractor.
2014/15	548,047	New contractor (Aster Living)

Table 1: Yearly spend on DFG'S at the end of each year.

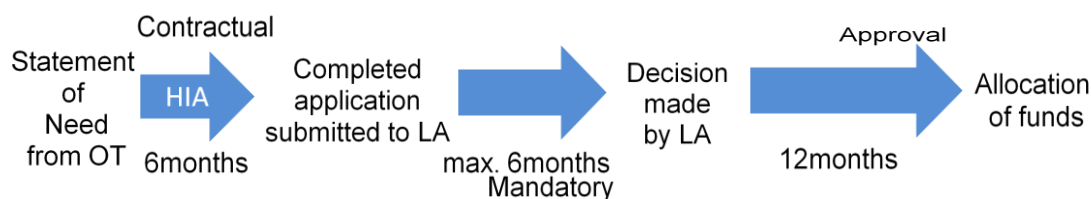
### 5 Current demand and financial situation from 2014/15

Due to the time line of the adaptations being requested by the Occupational Therapist (OT), the application, approval and then completion of the works, they can roll from one financial year to another. This can complicate the picture of demand and actual spend as funds are committed from one year to another. For example at the end of last financial year there were 45 cases totalling £381,150 that were at application stage. This was as a result of them being requested at the end of the financial year. This work therefore rolled over into this financial year and is reflected in the Summary table above.

Local authorities are required to issue a decision on a completed DFG application as soon as reasonably practicable and, in any event, not later than six months after the date of the applications' concerned. There is no waiting list and a decision is being made and processed in 3 weeks.

Once approval is granted this offer will remain open for a 12 month period. If however there are a change in circumstances i.e. a prolonged period in hospital, the grant application will be closed with the consent of the OT. This will then be reopened if required. This allows for the reallocation of funds in the financial year. This is closely monitored to ensure best use of funds.

Diagram 1: Contractual and Statutory time scales to DFG process



## 6 What other demand is in the system for this financial year, 2015/2016?

Demand has increased over 2014/15 and is following the same trend this financial year.

Enquiry	RSL	Owner Occupier	Private Tenant	Total
2012/13	73	22	48	138
2013/14	63	24	47	134
2014/15	92	27	59	178
2015/16 Q1				44 (Predicted 176 case)

Table 2: Number of referrals by tenure over the last 4 years.

This year so far we have approved £291,111 of work. The average cost of an adaptation is £5,666. However there are some works that cost as much as £30,000 i.e. if an extension is required for a child.

## 7 What is the Current Level of Performance?

Aster Living are contracted by Torbay Council to provide the Home Improvement Agency. This delivers a service to complete the applications, gain all relevant permissions and contract manages the adaptation. Table 3: This Financial Year - Time taken between approval of an application and works being completed on site.

Time Frame	Number of cases
Up to 3 months (12 weeks)	35
3-6 months (12- 24 weeks)	6
6-9 months (24 – 36 weeks)	4
9-12 months (36 – 52 weeks)	1
<i>Average time from enquiry to completion</i>	<i>31 weeks</i>
<i>Average time from Approval to completion</i>	<i>12 weeks</i>

Once an application is approved the following steps need to be undertaken:

- Contract signed
- Contractor start dates set based on availability
- Specialist equipment ordered i.e. curved stair lift and through floor lifts take 6 weeks to manufacture
- Extra works approved as a result of unforeseen repairs issues etc.
- OT and client sign off.

This hopefully will give some indication of where it can take on average 12 week to complete the adaptation. There are only a few cases that take a significant amount of time. These often involve complicated cases that involve significant building works such as extensions.