Disabled Facilities Grants Position Statement

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Summary: This report has been brought to the Strategic Housing Panel to inform Members of the current position regarding DFG approvals and commitments.

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1. **Introduction**

1.1 The DFG budget for 2012/13 is £500,000; current approvals are £450,000 as at end January 2013, and referrals in process will fully commit this budget. There will be an additional 30 referrals ready for approval before the financial year end with an additional cost to the service of approximately £50,000 (£550,000 in total commitments).

2. **Demand**

2.1 The following table shows the increased demand on the service since 2010/11.

	No of Approvals	Total Commitment
2010/11	66	
2011/12	100	500,000
2012/13	85 to end January	439,684

2.2 There has been an increased demand from the Home Group due to budget constraints and the council has a statutory duty to provide DFG's to applicants regardless of tenure.

2.3 Six extensions have been approved this year, all bar one (which was a Home Group property and all other avenues were explored) being properties belonging to owner occupiers with young families. Each extension costs between £25.000 and £30,000. The maximum amount the council can contribute to a DFG is £30,000.

2.4 There is no 'means test' for a child's adaptation (under 18).

3 Resources

3.1 The approved budget for 2012/13 is £500,000. Council contribution was £250,000. The contribution from DCLG was £261,000, a further contribution was made in December 2012 of £84,000 and Cumbria County Council made a contribution of £60,000. In total therefore £155,000 has been moved to the housing capital receipts reserve.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Discussions are ongoing with Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Home Group to develop improved ways of working and housing options for residents needing adaptations and a report will be brought to the Panel in June which will outline improvements.