

SPECIALIST EMERGENCY EVACUATION EQUIPMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Geoff Blackwell
LEAD OFFICER: Liam Murphy
REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Sharrock

Summary: Request for Funding for Evacuation Chairs for compliance with 2005 Fire Reform Regulations

Recommendation:	Request for funding for total of 5 evacuation chairs for Catherine Street building and Moresby building for use by any disabled bodied person in the event of Fire Evacuation of Council buildings where people work on a level above ground floor.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: n/a

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): Impact of not authorising this would be a breach of legislation and regulatory bodies namely Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and Fire Reform Regs 2005

Financial and human resource implications: £5250 funding required for the initial equipment to be funded from contingencies which currently stands at £23,585. In addition to this there would be an annual service and maintenance cost implication of approx £150 p/annum not requested at this time and £150 for training p/annum.

Project & Risk Management: Trials of other equipment has been tried and this equipment has been suggested is the most effective according to staff and DDA representation & consultation.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** £5250 + vat
- **Ward:**

Other Ward Implications:

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As the Chief Executive is Chief Fire Warden and as an organisation we must comply with the new and current Fire Reform Regulations 2005 which came into force November 2006 fully requires that all buildings managed by the employer namely "Copeland Borough Council" are responsible now for the full evacuation of staff and visitors from their premise, including any members who are disabled in any way. This requires new equipment and training of key personnel to carry out this obligation fully.

- 1.2 Before this time it was not a legal requirement and we were covered by the “refuge points” in our procedures. Now it is a legal requirement and our current Fire & Evacuation Procedures documentation states we must provide this new additional procedure. (See Copeland BC Fire Evacuation Procedures 2007 appendix attached).

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 It has been challenged that we are not catering for disabled staff or visitors in the event of a Fire on our premise and we currently cannot fully ensure the safe evacuation of these people. In the past, we have allowed staff and visitors to be left on the landings called “refuge points” which is no longer permissible according to Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service, therefore we are currently in breach of the FRRregs 2005 and also the HSWA 1974 and the MHSWA 1999.
- 2.2 The Provider of the Copeland Centre has been contacted and asked for support, the response has been that the occupation of the building and management of visitors is a matter for the tenants to deal with.
- 2.3 Both Copeland Homes and the DWP are to be contacted to seek a proportionate contribution towards the costs and any income received will be offset against the amounts shown in this report.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Do nothing and be in breach of the Regulations, or agree and provide funding for the purchase of the equipment to be fully compliant.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Money should be authorised for the release of the equipment and it should be funded annually for its safe maintenance £150 approx and training annually £150 approx for its use periodically to be fully compliant.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Copeland BC Fire Evacuation Procedures doc.
Appendix B - Evacuation Chair Diagram

List of Background Documents: FRR 2005 Regulations

List of Consultees: Cllr Bradshaw, Corporate Team, Cllr E. Woodburn, Kier, DWP Liz Pennington, DWP J.O’Niel Health & Safety Union Rep, Chris Lloyd, Terry Chilcott, Safety Reps Group, Fire Wardens Group.