

Capital Funding for Disabled Facilities Grants

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Clements
LEAD OFFICER: Fergus McMorrow
REPORT AUTHOR: Laurie Priebe

Summary :

Members are asked to note the specific capital allocation received from DCLG for the funding of Disabled Facilities Grants in 2010/2011.

1. Introduction

District Councils receive an annual specific capital allocation (SCA) from DCLG for the funding of Disabled Facilities Grants. The grants for 2010/2011 were announced on 31 March 2010

2. Background Information

The Council's grant for 2008/09 was £208,000 and for 2009/10 it was £210,000. This is invariably inadequate to fund each year's commitments towards a statutory and mandatory grants system so we topped it up each year with a contribution from other capital resources, notably from Copeland's share of the Regional Housing Capital Pot (for spending on the Council's chosen housing priorities). For 2010/2011 we bid for £500,000 for Disabled Facilities Grants.

3. 2010/2011 Allocation

It is disappointing to report that our allocation has remained static at £210,000. However, the regional government office has distributed a residual amount of regional funds from 2009/2010 to District Councils in Cumbria for use in 2010/2011. In the absence of any other explanation I have assumed this was unspent capital in the northwest left over from 2009/2010. Copeland's share is £118,000. In effect this raises our specific allocation to £328,000 for this year alone.

4. Next steps

At the time of writing (6 April) we still have not been informed of our share of the Regional Housing Capital Pot. Members may recall that this stood at £1,175,000 in 2008/09 but was reduced to £842,000 in 2009/2010 following the regional government office's adoption of a new distribution formula. It would have been even lower but for transitional protection introduced to soften the impact in the first year. We are forecasting an allocation of around £504,000 in 2010/2011.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

The Government Office for the Northwest (GONW) informed us on 1 April that "CLG will be in a position to make an announcement soon." On the assumption that this will be known by the time the Panel meets in May 2010 your officers intend bringing a comprehensive report to cover not only Disabled Facilities Grants but also the Council's Housing Capital programme generally and funding sources.