

**Cabinet**  
**Wednesday 10 January 2018**

**Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**at its meeting on Monday 8 January 2018**  
**OSC/264**

**1. Cabinet Agenda Item 6 – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Policy**

**Comments and Recommendations**

The Commission considered report SHAPS/67 of the Head of Strategic Housing and Planning Services.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Clarity provided regarding the means tested approach derived by central government.
- By working in partnership with WSCC district and boroughs, a single approach had been developed to enable a maximum take-up of increased funding available to the benefit of local residents. Each authority can implement discretionary DFG assistance to supplement the existing mandatory regime.
- Confirmation that proposals would only be considered for people eligible for a grant following assessment by a WSCC Occupational Therapist.
- Clarity provided regarding extended warranty provision and mechanism for review.
- Confirmation that the application process was monitored to ensure satisfactory delivery.
- It was noted that there can be delays between residents contacting the Independent Living Team (Occupational Therapy Services) and the recommendation for disabled adaptations being received by the council. However, Private Sector Housing officers then progressed disabled facility grants as quickly as possible or as required by the applicant.
- Acknowledgement that the Better Care Fund was kept under review.
- Overall support for the mandatory and discretionary regime that helped people live well in their own homes.

**RESOLVED**

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet.

**Councillor Brenda Smith**  
**Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**8 January 2018**