

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C/138/2005-06.

Date of meeting: 10 April 2006.



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Housing.

Subject: Increase in Disabled Adaptations Budget.

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Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 – 56 4470).

Recommendations:

- (1) That an increase in the annual budget for Disabled Adaptations from 2006/7 in the sum of £30,000, from £300,000 to £330,000 per annum, be recommended to the Council for approval; and**
- (2) That the annual budget be increased year on year in line with Building Cost increases to keep up with inflation.**

Report:

1. The annual budget for disabled adaptations is currently £300,000 per annum, which was agreed by the Cabinet in July 2004 following the Housing Best Value Service Review.
2. Since then, the budget for adaptations has remained at £300,000 per annum. However, the number of adaptations received from Social Services has continued to rise year on year, which means that a number adaptations are being held over on a waiting list until the next financial year when the new budget becomes available.
3. In 2005/6 the Council received 128 recommendations for adaptations from Social Services, with a further 46 applications held over from 2004/05. Of those, the Council was able to undertake 127 adaptations, which means 47 adaptations, are held on a waiting list for 2006/7. However, as part of the budget monitoring process, an additional one off sum of £150,000 was allocated in 2005/6 to try and clear the backlog of adaptations.
4. The Housing Appeals Panel, at its meeting on 16 February 2006, recommended that a report be put forward to the Cabinet by the Housing Portfolio seeking an increase in the annual budget for disabled adaptations to take account of building cost increases over the last two years. This equates to around £30,000 in total based on a 5% increase each year. The budget would be met from existing resources within the Housing Capital programme.
5. In order to keep the budget in line with inflation, it is recommended that the budget for disabled adaptations be increased year on year in line with building cost indices.

Statement in support of recommended action:

6. The Housing Appeals Panel, at its meeting on 16 February 2006, recommended that this report be presented to the Cabinet by the Housing Portfolio Holder

Options for action:

7. That the budget remains at £300,000 per annum and not increased year on year.
8. That the budget be increased in line with inflation rather than building cost indices, which are running at a higher level.

Consultation undertaken:

9. The Housing Appeals Panel have been consulted on the proposal, and are supportive of the recommendations

Resource implications:

Budget provision: £30,000 per annum to be met from the increased RCCO agreed at the previous meeting of the Cabinet and to be included in the HRA Capital Programme.

Personnel: Nil

Land: Nil

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A

Relevant statutory powers: Housing Act 1985

Background papers: Minutes of the Housing Appeals Panel of 16 February 2006

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: N/A.

Key Decision reference (if required): N/A.