

HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2020

AIDS & ADAPTATIONS POLICY

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Committee with a revised policy for aids & adaptations to demonstrate Newark and Sherwood District Council's commitment to providing assistance and delivering solutions to meet the needs of customers that are long term sick or disabled, to enable them to enjoy a good quality of life and sustain independent living in their home, for as long as possible.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 This policy is based on private sector housing policy and the legislation which governs the implementation of major adaptations made from the Disabled Facilities Grants under the "Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996".

2.2 Newark & Sherwood District Council, as a landlord, meets the cost to supply and fit aids and adaptations to council homes. These costs are met through the Councils Housing Revenue Account (HRA). We will do all we can to ensure there is sufficient funding to meet the needs of tenants, however, this may not always be possible at times of extremely high demand.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The current Aids & Adaptations Policy was delivered by Newark & Sherwood Homes before their services were transferred back under Council responsibility in February 2020. In updating the Policy, to reflect these operational changes, a small number of amendments to the Policy have been made which now require Committee approval. These changes relate mainly to the approval of high cost adaptations such as ground floor extensions. Adaptations such as these will now need to follow an escalation procedure, and further consideration by senior members of staff within the Directorate, before such works are approved. Further details can be found at section 9 and 10 of the Policy.

3.2 The document also includes information on frequently asked questions to assist customers through the process of requesting support through the Aids & Adaptations Policy. It will also provide a means of holding the Council to account, by ensuring our tenants understand their entitlement to support. This Policy, once approved, will be available on the Councils website.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 An equality impact assessment will be produced for this Policy.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 There are no digital implications arising from this report.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no material financial implications arising from this report as it is not expected these policy revisions will result in increased costs to the HRA.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 This Policy aligns with the following Community Plan objectives:

- To improve the health & wellbeing of local residents
- To create more and better homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority

8.0 Comments of Director(s)

8.1 None

9.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

To approve the Policy as drafted

Reason for Recommendation(s)

To ensure Newark and Sherwood District Council has a policy to provide assistance and deliver solutions to meet the needs of customers that are long term sick or disabled, to enable them to enjoy a good quality of life and sustain independent living in their home for as long as possible.

Background Papers

Draft Aids & Adaptations Policy

For further information please contact Steve Haywood Strategic Lead, Asset & Development on 07882719655

Suzanne Shead
Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing