

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

---

Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2019  
title: REQUEST ADDITIONAL RIBBLE VALLEY ADAPTATION FUNDING  
submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING  
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT – HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To request a further allocation of £70,000 from the Ribble Valley Better Care Fund award is allocated for the delivery of Ribble Valley Adaptations.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To address specialist housing needs of the borough.
- Corporate Priorities – N/A
- Other Considerations – N/A

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In March 2019 Committee approved that a budget of £80,000 would be allocated to allow for the delivery of discretionary Ribble Valley adaptations. This amount of budget was fully committed and this was reported to Committee in September.

2.2 In September a further £50,00 was allocated to allow delivery to continue. As at this point there was a waiting list of 15 RVA's, 3 of which were highlighted as urgent cases.

2.3 Since September all of those on the waiting list have been approved and the works either complete or are currently underway.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 As agreed the budget has continued to be closely monitored with a monthly review meeting arranged. In late November it was evident that the RVA budget had again been fully committed.

3.2 As Members are aware, it is important to closely monitor expenditure of the discretionary grant as at any time there must be sufficient funding to cover the cost of any mandatory grant recommendations received from Occupational Therapist (OT). As a Council we can only forecast as to what recommendations may be received from the Occupational Therapist.

3.3 As we move into the last quarter of the year, there is still sufficient funds to cover any large adaptation recommendations that may be received from the OT.

3.4 Therefore in order to continue to be able to process RVA's in the same efficient timeframe for those households who require adaptations, there is a request for a further £70,000 to be allocated to the RVA budget. Therefore, the total budget for

RVA's in the 2019/20 finance year will be £200,000 of the total budget of £706,489 of the Better Care Funding.

3.5 At the time of writing this report, there are 12 RVA grant applications on hold. These are a mixture of level access showers, stairlifts and enabling access to the property.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The Better Care Fund allocation for Ribble Valley is to ensure households can remain at home and live independently. The Council must ensure that the mandatory grants take precedent over the discretionary and at any point should there be an increased number of DFG referrals then the RVA grants will go on hold.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The technical service is available for all recommendations to assist in processing the grant. The Council has a legal duty to process DFG's whilst the delivery of RVA's are at the Council's discretion.
- Political – Essential that adaptations are available to households in need and that the Council can deliver its mandatory function of completing DFG's.
- Reputation – Important the allocation assists households to remain in their own home and to live independently.
- Equality & Diversity – The grant is available to all households subject to the eligibility criteria.

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve a further £70,000 to be allocated for expenditure on Ribble Valley Adaptations.

RACHAEL STOTT  
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 3235.