

AMENDMENTS AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 28 JUNE 2017

AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been received.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1. HOMES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP - 23 MAY 2017

MINUTE NO. 9

Questions submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and a response of the Director of Operations

How many people have been waiting over 12 months for adaptations to enable them to have a bath or shower in their own home? Has anyone been waiting more than 2 yrs? Please take the timing from the first request from the tenant.

Is any tenant waiting for the Council to install a ramp to enable the tenant to access and leave their own home independently?

If the answer is yes, how long have they been waiting?

RESPONSE:

In terms of our response there are subtle differences between those occupying their own home or private rented accommodation and those living in our housing stock.

The process required for one of our tenants to receive any form of adaptation work to their home differs slightly to that for a private owner occupier or private tenant. First and foremost a council tenant cannot receive funding from a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), as the property is owned by a Local Authority. What this means is that funding for any adaptation work is provided through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and as such we carry out the necessary works.

However one thing is the same, in order to qualify for any form of major adaptation work we must receive a statement of need (SON) from the tenant's occupational therapist (OT). The OT will recommend to us what work is required and without this the application would be incomplete. The OT also states the urgency of the case and uses the following as a guide of urgency:

- *Difficulty – 18 months*
- *Deterioration – 12 months*
- *Danger – 6 months*

We currently have three tenants waiting for access works to be carried out and all three have been classified by the OT as 'deterioration' and as such need to be carried out within 12 months of receipt.

1. *Request to provide a path to the back garden and install a gate, there is currently level access to the front of the property but this does involve a long and awkward route to any vehicle. We received this SON on 12/01/2017 and it is categorized as Deterioration.*

2. *Request to provide level access to front door, this involves numerous ramps and alterations to existing steps and ramps, there is currently access but is very long and steep, we have provided temporary ramping to improve situation until DFG works are carried out. We received this SON on 13/03/2017 and it is categorized as Deterioration.*

3. *Request to provide level access to rear door, property currently has level front access but tenant is unable to access Medical vehicles from there. We received this SON on 16/05/2017 and it is categorized as Deterioration.*

All three of these requests should be carried out within the next 3 months, as we will be looking to complete all concreting works by the end of the summer.

For owner occupiers and tenants of privately rented properties the assistance is through the use of Disabled Facilities Grants. The average turnaround from receipt of OT referral to award of grant is 9 weeks. The client chooses when to have the work done and if they are using a private contractor we have no control over the timeline for final completion, however the grant is in place.
