

## HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006 SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE

### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of Dumfries and Galloway Council to transfer the funding to deliver the Care and Repair, Small Repairs and Home Support Service, Food Train Extra and Dementia Friendly Design project to the Integration Joint Board for 2018/19. The Council's Communities Committee endorsed these recommendations at its meeting of 6 February 2018 and agreed to refer them to Full Council for agreement. This approach is being taken because the Communities Committee does not have the delegated authority to agree to transfer budgets from the Council to the Integration Joint Board. The annual review of the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership budget is a matter reserved for Full Council.

### 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

2.1 note that the funding recommendations set out below were considered at the 6 February 2018 meeting of the Council's Communities Committee and were recommended to be referred to Dumfries and Galloway Council for agreement;

2.2 agree the transfer of £1.198 million from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board to support the ongoing delivery of the Care and Repair service as detailed at section 3.2 of this report;

2.3 agree the transfer of £149k from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to fund the Small Repairs and Home Support services as detailed at section 3.3 of this report;

2.4 agree the transfer of £37,400 from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to fund Food Train Extra as detailed at section 3.4 of this report; and

2.5 agree the transfer of £15,000 from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to fund the Dementia Friendly Design project as detailed at section 3.5 of this report.

### 3. Considerations

3.1 Part 2 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to develop a Scheme of Assistance for providing support to property owners, and private tenants, when carrying out work to their homes. It sets out how the Council will improve the quality of private housing in Dumfries and Galloway. It is mandatory under the terms of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 to transfer the services described in this report to the Integration Joint Board (IJB). Any future decisions in relation to the delivery of these services will be the responsibility of the IJB. This means they will have the delegated authority for ensuring these budgets deliver Best Value and comply with all current procurement regulations.

### 3.2 **Care and Repair (IJB Funding)**

3.2.1 The Care and Repair service is currently managed, and delivered, by Loreburn Housing Association. It provides grants for mandatory, and discretionary, housing adaptations for people with disabilities in the private housing sector. These grant awards for adaptations help maintain people's independence at home for as long as possible, as well as enabling the participation and engagement of people with their communities. This function transferred to the IJB from April 2016. Care and Repair will be the subject of an open competitive tender process for 2018/19 to ensure value for money and compliance with procurement regulations. This work is being taken forward by the Service Manager, Community Occupational Therapy. The 6 February 2018 meeting of the Communities Committee 'agreed to recommend to Dumfries and Galloway Council the transfer of £1.198 million from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board to support the ongoing delivery of the Care and Repair Service.'

3.2.2 The Council has been allocated £1.198 million through its capital allocation from the Scottish Government as part of the 2018/19 budget settlement. In recent years this funding has been allocated to support the delivery of Care and Repair. This service contributes to the delivery of the Council's priority "to protect our most vulnerable people".

### 3.3 **Small Repairs and Home Support Service (IJB Funding)**

3.3.1 The 6 February 2018 meeting of the Council's Communities Committee 'agreed to recommend to Dumfries and Galloway Council an allocation of £149K to the Integration Joint Board to fund the Small Repairs and Home Support Services'. This service is managed at an operational level through the Adult Health and Social Care organisational arrangements and is more commonly known as the 'HandyVan'. This is a free, region wide, service for vulnerable people who meet the published referral criteria. While not exhaustive, the service provides practical assistance to all those eligible for home security, smoke alarms, small repairs, falls prevention, minor aids and adaptations, and portable appliance testing. The 'HandyVan' also obtains the necessary authorisations for works, recruits, trains and supports volunteers and signposts to other services, including the Trusted Trader Scheme. This service continues to support the 9 National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes such as 'People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently at home or in a homely setting in their community.' Its delivery contributes to the delivery of the Council's priority "to protect our most vulnerable people".

### 3.4 **Food Train Extra (IJB Funding)**

3.4.1 The 6 February 2018 meeting of the Council's Communities Committee agreed 'to recommend to Dumfries and Galloway Council an allocation of £37,400 to the Integration Joint Board to fund Food Train Extra.' Food Train Extra helps older people with small household jobs that do not require skilled trades. This service delivers work such as smoke alarm checks, light bulb changing, home safety jobs, duvet changing and freezer defrosting. If agreed, this funding allocation will contribute towards the costs of solely Food Train Extra. This includes a proportion of the Food Train Development Officer's time related to this service, volunteer costs including training and expenses, materials for service provision and vehicle use. Withdrawal of funding could result in this service closing and the support currently offered may no longer be available. It contributes to the delivery of the Council's priority "to protect our most vulnerable people".

### 3.5 **Dementia Friendly Design (IJB Funding)**

The 6 February 2018 meeting of the Council's Communities Committee agreed to 'recommend to Dumfries and Galloway Council an allocation of £15k to the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board to fund the Dementia Friendly Design Project.' The 5 February 2015 meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Council agreed, through its annual budget setting process, to fund the Dementia Friendly Design project for a 3 year period with a total allocation of £35k. £15k was allocated in the first year and £10k per annum in the following two years. There is therefore a current requirement to review the funding of this service which delivers small adaptations in local resident's homes to help those suffering with dementia. An example of the work carried out is replacing solid kitchen cupboard doors with glass doors, enabling the householder to see the contents. This service received 185 referrals in 2015/16, 170 referrals in 2016/17 and by the end of Quarter 2 in 2017/18 had received 83 referrals. There is therefore significant demand for innovative projects of this nature in our region. Simple changes to dementia sufferers living environment can prevent the need for much more costly placements in residential care. The HandyVan have requested that Members consider continuing to fund this project to operate alongside the Small Repairs and Home Support Service. The operation of this service contributes to the delivery of the Council's priority to "Protect our most vulnerable people".

### 4. **Governance Assurance**

The Corporate Management Team and Head of Finance and Procurement have been consulted and are in agreement with the terms of this report.

### 5. **Impact Assessment**

This report does not propose any change in policy therefore an Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **Author(s)**

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#### **Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>
Harry Hay	Head of Customer Services

#### **Background papers**

Dumfries and Galloway Council Meeting of 5 February 2015 [Dumfries and Galloway Council Minutes - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

Communities Committee Meeting of 6 February 2018 – Item 5 [Communities Council Minutes - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)