

ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED ADAPTATIONS PROGRAMME – BALANCE OF PHASE 4

Abstract

This report seeks approval to the provision of supplementary funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund to allow the remainder of the fourth phase of an extensive programme of adaptations in non-housing properties to be undertaken, at an estimated cost of £48,000.

RECOMMENDATION

The Resources and Central Services Committee is recommended to:

1. note the de-commitment of £40,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in Financial Year 2005/06 and its redeployment for other urgent accessibility works.
2. approve the bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £48,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2005/06 for the balance of Phase 4 of an access for the disabled adaptations programme.
3. instruct the Director of Property Services to progress these adaptations and submit further reports detailing later phases of this programme.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 places a responsibility on Angus Council to take appropriate measures to ensure, so far as is practicable, equality of access to council services for all members of the community with disabilities.

The Property Services department has identified a need to undertake accessibility adaptations to Council non-housing properties as part of these measures and having completed Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the programme of adaptations, it proposes to undertake Phase 4 in Financial Year 2005/06.

This report seeks approval to supplementary funding being made available from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2005/06 to enable the balance of Phase 4 of this programme to be undertaken.

2 BACKGROUND

The implications of The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 were reported to Angus Council by Report 86/96, DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 - CONSULTATION ON CODE OF PRACTICE submitted to the Personnel and Property Services Committee on 28th June 1996.

It was recognised by the Director of Property Services that an extended programme of physical adaptations to non-Housing properties were necessary to enable the Council to meet its obligations and funding for a short and small scale programme was established within the Financial Plan.

This was supplemented by additional funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund to permit the provision of improved access to at Polling Stations as detailed in Report 1271/98, PROPERTY RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND - FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRAMME OF URGENT REPAIRS - PHASE 6, approved by Personnel and Property Services Committee on 1st December 1998.

A programme of adaptations commenced in 1998, as reported by Report 1269/98, PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO COUNCIL PROPERTIES, submitted to the Personnel and Property Services Committee on 1st December 1998 and this has been completed.

A further report, No 556/01 ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED - PROGRESS, POLICY AND STRATEGY, was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 8th May 2001 establishing a corporate policy and strategy. It incorporated accessibility adaptations for school properties and recognised the requirement to undertake an extensive ten year programme of accessibility adaptations to Council non-housing properties, revising the programme as necessary to accommodate changes in needs, priorities and cast as they occur.

The Property Services department has completed Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the programme of adaptations to non-housing properties and is progressing Phase 4. It proposes undertaking the balance of Phase 4, as detailed in Appendix 1, in Financial Year 2005/06 supplementary funding being made available from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2005/06.

2.1 Changes during Financial Year 2004/05

Report 1440/04, approved by the Resources and Central Services Committee on 02 December 2004, made available £40,000 supplementary funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in Financial Year 2005/06 to assist with the development of an Integrated Child Protection Premises at Bellevue House, Arbroath.

The Social Work department has recently advised that this supplementary funding is no longer required as a consequence of additional capital funding now being available.

The Resources and Central Services Committee is requested to note the de-commitment of £40,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in Financial Year 2005/06 and its redeployment in support of the balance of Phase 4 of accessibility works.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The balance of the Access for the Disabled Adaptations programme, Phase 4, for 2005/06 comprises projects wholly funded from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2005/06.

The balance of costs cannot be contained within the Property Maintenance elements of the respective departmental revenue budgets for 2005/06 and it is considered appropriate for £48,000 supplementary funding to be made available from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund.

The cost of the programme of work detailed in this report can be contained within the provisions of the Property Renewal and Repair Fund for 2005/06.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

Any implications, as a consequence of discharging recommendations detailed in this report, will be managed in accordance with the standing procedures and processes established by the Property Services department.

5 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Acting Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

The Resources and Central Services Committee is recommended to note the de-commitment of £40,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in Financial Year 2005/06 and its redeployment for other urgent accessibility works and approve the bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £48,000 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2005/06 for the balance of Phase 4 of an access for the disabled adaptations programme.

REFERENCES

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Personnel and Property Services Committee	28 th June 1996	86/96	Disability Discrimination Act 1995 - Consultation on Code of Practice
Finance and Information Technology	10 June 1997	678/97	Composite Report on Special and Other Funds
Policy and Resources Committee	10 February 1998	191/98	Special Funds 1997/98 and Beyond - Review
Policy and Resources Committee	8 May 2001	556/01	Access for the Disabled - Progress, Policy and Strategy

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Access for the disabled adaptations programme – Balance of Phase 4

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

M G Lunny
Director of Property Services

Appendix 1 Access for the disabled adaptations programme – Balance of Phase 4

Name	Town	Client	Project Description	Expenditure
Newbigging Primary School	Newbigging	Education	New ramps and provision of powered assistance to doors at front entrance and fire exit	£17,000
Montrose Town Hall	Montrose	Leisure Services	New ramp and other improvements to the front entrance	£20,000
General	Various	Various	Accessibility compliance surveys	£11,000
Total				£48,000