

## STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

ITEM NO

20 DECEMBER 2016

8

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>TENANT SERVICES AIDS &amp; ADAPTATIONS POLICY</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	For Committee to agree the revised policy.
<b>Decisions</b>	The Committee <b>RESOLVES</b> to approve the revised Tenant Services' Aids & Adaptations Policy (Appendix A).
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Tenant Services Senior Management Team (17/11/16) Corporate Team (29/11/16) Occupational Therapy (08/11/16)
<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b>	<p>The revised policy defines the type and limitations of the services to be provided under statutory requirements. These services are to be provided from the existing budget and therefore there are no significant additional financial implications. Simon Merrett – Interim Principal Accountant Email: <a href="mailto:simon.merrett@stroud.gov.uk">simon.merrett@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Risk assessment by the report author</b> The Policy provides relevant information and guidance on what does and does not attract aids and adaptation works for service failure in line with statutory requirements, the fact that we have a robust policy reduces the risk of challenge to both our financial and reputation.</p>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	<p>The policy reflects the Council's approach to making adaptations to its own housing, a service which is similar to Disabled Facilities Grants available to private sector residents in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. Karen Trickey Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: <a href="mailto:karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk">karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Report Author</b>	<p>Fay Gorick, Programme Delivery Manager Tel: 01453 754550 Email: <a href="mailto:fay.gorick@stroud.gov.uk">fay.gorick@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Alternative Options</b>	Make other changes to the Policy.
<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	12 month review via briefing note to members on status and effectiveness of the policy in light of any legislative or other impacts.
<b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Policy and Procedure

## **1.0. Background**

- 1.1. Tenant Services is constantly seeking to improve and deliver its business effectively, efficiently and in a timely manner.
- 1.2. Co-regulation legislation places an emphasis on the effective handling of aids and adaptation works and learning from stakeholders, organisational peers and residents who have experience of such works. Not surprisingly, it is good practice within the relevant industry to have a clear aids and adaptation policy. The Council first adopted such a policy in July 2013.

## **2.0. Purpose of updating the policy**

- 2.1 The aim of the revised policy (set out in Appendix A) is to provide better clarity and guidance for managers, officers, stakeholders in delivering an efficient and effective aids and adaptation service for Council tenants and their immediate families with whom they live. The proposed changes will enable the Council to better support disabled residents to live comfortably and independently in their homes or to enable more suitable alternative accommodation to be found.
- 2.2 More particularly, it is anticipated that the improvements in the policy will:
  - By providing clearer guidance for managers and officers when handling aids and adaptation referrals, ensure a consistent approach is taken across the service;
  - Ensure compliance with statutory and legislative requirements;
  - Better promote the health and wellbeing of our residents by adapting existing accommodation;
  - Secure better long term value for money savings as a result of investigating alternative more suitable accommodation and thereby also potentially release family sized homes that are in high demand
  - Further promote delivery of excellent customer service across Tenant Services.