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Service Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 28 September 2022

EXEMPT MATTERS

The following items are exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraphs indicated

- 25 **Proposals for the Delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme**
(Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

The Panel scrutinised a report which set out proposals for delivery of the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme from April 2023; sought approval to participate in County wide agreements in connection with contractor procurement and Occupational Therapy services; and set out the options considered for the delivery of the grant programme.

The service was currently delivered by Millbrook Healthcare Ltd and there had been challenges associated with the delivery of the contract which were detailed in the report along with the options for future service delivery.

Given the existing shared workforce and infrastructure with our Alliance partner High Peak Council and, considering the options detailed at 9.3 of the report, the preferred way forward was to bring the DFG services back within local control by looking to build on the existing shared structure with a shared multi-tenure service across both Councils with the use of our existing shared Teckal company, Alliance Norse.

Discussion took place around greater flexibility in terms of grant assistance, robust key performance indicators, promotion of the grant and increased take-up due to the removal of the means test, where possible. Other positive factors were debated such as improved communication, short timescales for simple adaptations, assistance towards works outside of the home and general property repairs. A meeting with Your Housing Group was planned to look at possible future DFG arrangements and the Engagement Strategy targeted those living in the private sector.

In response to a query in relation to a local workforce, members were advised that it was the intention to use local contractors and a contractor event had been organised to take place in November to promote DFG work. The Panel was also informed that the Council would revisit those clients which had withdrawn from the scheme and community grants would be considered as part of the promotional activity. Councillors wished to be more involved with the publicity of the grant scheme and offered to deliver leaflets.

The Officer welcomed suggestions from members and asked for any specific issues to be discussed with him outside of the meeting.

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DECIDED:

The Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet **APPROVED**:

- In principle, the proposal for the future delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant process by Alliance Norse from 1st April 2023 for a minimum period of 5 years, subject to agreement of detailed terms and conditions.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's participation in the development of County wide arrangements for the procurement of contractors and Occupational Therapy Services.
- Delegation of authority to the Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning) to negotiate the terms and conditions relating to an agreement for the delivery of the DFG programme, subject to approval of a further Portfolio Holder Delegated Report.
- For the 6 monthly Your Housing Group performance update considered by the Community O&S Panel, to include a section on Disabled Facilities Grants.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman _____ Date