

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the Aids and Adaptations Policy for council tenants and their immediate household is to outline how the Council will support them to remain as long as possible independently in their current home and carry out essential daily activities which may be hampered by long-term health issues or disability, or, if this is not possible or practical, to assist them in finding suitable alternative accommodation.

The policy:

- States clearly how new aids and adaptations requests will be accessed, considered, prioritised, approved or rejected.
- Makes best use of existing adaptations in council properties through the reallocation of those properties to those with needs most closely meeting the property attributes.
- Specifies threshold indicators and limits relating to types of adaptations
- Indicates what support can be offered in terms of re-housing to more suitable accommodation when an option appraisal makes the application nonviable for the existing dwelling or its occupants.
- States clearly which adaptations will not be funded

<b>1 Identify the aims of the policy/service/function and how it is implemented.</b>			
	<b>Key questions</b>	<b>Answers / Notes</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
1.1	Is this an existing or a new policy / function?	Existing	
1.2	Who defines or defined the policy/function?	It is a statutory duty to produce this policy under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996) that provides the Council with the discretion to develop new schemes for providing financial assistance to deal with adaptations that are required in Council owned accommodation.	
1.3	Who is the policy/function being aimed at?	Aids and Adaptations will only be considered for Gravesham Borough Council tenants, their partner or a member of the immediate family who is permanently resident in the household.  And  Have an impairment which has a significant long-term effect on their ability to:	

1	Identify the aims of the policy/service/function and how it is implemented.		
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	Actions required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carry out normal day-day activities in and around their home</li> <li>- Access essential facilities within their home</li> </ul> <p>Adaptations for children of tenants will only be completed at the property which is the principal home.</p> <p>Major Adaptations will not be approved for individuals who are waiting for medical procedures which will improve mobility until their expected recovery is complete.</p> <p>Adaptations will be considered when a tenant is waiting to be discharged from hospital and require their current homes to be adapted, however it may not be possible for them to be completed prior to discharge.</p> <p>Adaptations will not be carried out for lodgers or temporary visitors</p> <p>Generally, adaptations will be carried out where a secure tenancy is held, although consideration will be given if tenants are introductory tenants. If the tenancy is in its introductory period and is less than 12 months old adaptations may not be carried out if the tenant failed to declare that they or a member of their household had a pre-existing disability where it would have been reasonable for them to do so.</p> <p>Requests for major adaptations will not be approved where a Right-to-Buy application has been received. Tenants in these cases will be signposted to the assistance available through the council's DFG programme once they have bought their home.</p> <p>Tenants seeking to Transfer or Mutual Exchange will be considered on their individual merit and whether they are leaving or going to a suitably adapted property will form part of this consideration.</p> <p>The council will not progress with an adaptation where possession</p>	

1 Identify the aims of the policy/service/function and how it is implemented.			
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	Actions required
		<p>proceedings have commenced, or a possession order is already in place.</p> <p>Gravesham Borough Council will only consider carrying out major adaptations that have been recommended by an occupational therapist from Kent County Council</p>	
1.4	Who implements the policy/function?	The Council's constitution states that the Director (Housing) has the power delegated from Cabinet to exercise the Council's powers and duties in respect of housing functions, in accordance with legislation as stated above.	
1.5	What is the objective or purpose of the policy/service/function?	<p>The purpose of the Aids and Adaptations Policy for council tenants and their immediate household is to outline how the Council will support them to remain as long as possible independently in their current home and carry out essential daily activities which may be hampered by long-term health issues or disability, or, if this is not possible or practical, to assist them in finding suitable alternative accommodation.</p> <p>This policy directly links to the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023, under strategic objective 1 PEOPLE Quality Living Safeguarding Residents- put in place a package of housing measures and creative measures that support the most vulnerable.</p>	
1.6	What outcomes do you want to achieve with this policy / function and for whom?	The intended outcome of this policy is to improve key determinant of health and by promoting good quality housing that enables residents to remain in their home as well as making the best use of its assets.	
1.7	Do these outcomes complement or hinder other policies, values or objectives of the organisation?	<p><b>Complement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy</li> <li>• Repairs &amp; Maintenance Policy</li> <li>• Allocations Policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Hinder</b></p>	

1 Identify the aims of the policy/service/function and how it is implemented.			
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	Actions required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing has been identified.</li> </ul>	
1.8	What factors or forces are at play that could contribute or detract from the outcomes identified earlier?	<p><b>Contribute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To work alongside KCC, Adult and Children's Social Care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Detract</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>	
1.9	How does the organisation interface with other bodies in relation to the implementation of this policy / function?	The Council's Housing department works in conjunction with KCC, Adult and Children's Social Services to deliver independent living in a safe environment for all.	
1.10	Taking the nine protected characteristics is there anything in the policy or how the service is delivered that could discriminate or disadvantage any of these groups?	<p><b>Age</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no adverse impacts relating to age. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no adverse impacts relating to marriage or civil partnership. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Race</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no adverse impacts relating to race. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	

1	Identify the aims of the policy/service/function and how it is implemented.		
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	Actions required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no adverse impacts relating to pregnancy and maternity. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Religion and belief</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no adverse impacts relating to religion and belief. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sexual Orientation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no adverse impacts relating to sexual orientation. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gender</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no adverse impacts relating to gender. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gender Reassignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no adverse impacts relating to gender reassignment. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will be treated in the same way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Disability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no adverse impacts relating to disability. As a Council/landlord, we have a duty to advise tenants/residents the discretionary function to assist with disabled adaptations and residents will</li> </ul>	

<b>1 Identify the aims of the policy/service/function and how it is implemented.</b>			
	<b>Key questions</b>	<b>Answers / Notes</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
		be treated in the same way.	
1.11	From your perspective, how is the policy actually working in practice for each equalities group?	This policy has had a positive impact on those residents who have received adaptations to stay in their home independently.	

<b>2 Consideration of available data, research and information</b>			
	<b>Key questions</b>	<b>Answers / Notes</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
2.1	What do you already know about who uses and delivers this service?	Already delivering this service to tenants	
2.2	What additional information is needed to ensure that all equality groups' needs are taken into account?	No further information is required.	
2.3	How are you going to go about getting the extra information that is required?	N/A	

<b>3 Formal consultation</b>			
	<b>Key questions</b>	<b>Answers / Notes</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
3.1	Who do we need to consult with?	No formal consultation is required	

4 Assessment of impact			
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	Actions required
4.1	Have you identified any differential impact and does this adversely affect any equalities groups?	No	
4.2	If there is an adverse impact can it be avoided, can we make changes, can we lessen it etc?	N/A	
4.3	If there is nothing you can do, can the reasons be fairly justified?	N/A	

5 Assessment of impact			
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	Actions required
5.1	Do any of the changes in relation to the adverse impact have a further adverse affect on any other group?	N/A	