

RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MADE BY A CABINET MEMBER

Decision Maker	Decision Type	Date
Councillor Hannah Roberts	Principal Decision	23/05/2019

Regulatory Reform Order 2002, Policy Document Update 2019

Decision

Approve the updated Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) 2002 Policy document and implement across Oldham Borough.

Exempt/Confidential Report	No
Key Decision	No

Reasons for the decision(s)

To seek approval for the Council to uphold its statutory duty and update the expired policy document under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order (RRO) 2002. In order for a Local Authority (LA) to exercise the powers granted by the RRO, a detailed policy must be produced outlining the types of assistance available to its residents.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option one – Uphold a statutory function by approving the updated RRO policy and implement immediately

Option two – Do not approve the new policy and subsequently refrain from issuing various housing assistance across the borough



Conflict of Interest declared

Councillor Hannah Roberts

(Councillor Signature and portfolio)

In consultation with

Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive People and Place

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(Deputy Chief Executive Signature)

Decision made pursuant to:

a) Delegation to Cabinet Member under the Council's scheme of delegation. Non-Key decisions.



Delegated Cabinet Member Decision Report

Decision Maker

Councillor Hannah Roberts, Portfolio Member for

and Portfolio area:

Housing and Planning

Date of Decision:

23 May 2019

Subject:

Regulatory Reform Order 2002, Policy Document Update

2019

Report Author:

Albert Margai, Principal Housing Market Intervention

Officer EXT, 6583

Ward(s) Affected:

All Wards

Reason for the decision:

To seek approval for the Council to uphold its statutory duty and update the expired policy document under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order (RRO) 2002. In order for a Local Authority (LA) to exercise the powers granted by the RRO, a detailed policy must be produced outlining the types of assistance available to its residents.

Summary:

The RRO gives Local Authorities the power to provide a variety of financial assistance to facilitate home improvements, relocations or adaptations. The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002, introduced 18 July 2002 and repealed the Regulatory Reform Order 2001, gives local authorities powers to provide housing assistance and renewals to local residents, in the form of grants, equity loans and other financial arrangements. Before a LA can exercise the grant issuing powers contained in article 3 of RRO 2002 the local authority must produce a clear and detailed policy followed by, public notification of the types of assistance available to residents. The policy must be made available

and widely accessible to residents free of charge.

Oldham Council currently has an outdated policy, which expired in 2012 – coinciding with the Private Sector Housing Strategy 2009-2012. The types of assistance the Council provided during the lifespan of the previous RRO are no longer fit for purpose in their existing form, to address the current challenges residents are facing. Therefore it is recommended that the types of assistance available in the new policy documents accurately reflect some of the boroughs new challenges.

The proposed updates to the renewed policy demonstrates awareness of the Council's strategic aims and objectives across the service, notably Housing and Adult Social Care. The renewed policy would enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations under the Care Act 2014. The Act places a general duty on local authorities to provide, arrange - or otherwise identify services, facilities and resources to prevent, delay or reduce the needs of adults for care and support in the local area. The assistance offered under this policy helps to ensure a person's living accommodation is suitably adapted, warm, dry and secure.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

- a) Uphold a statutory function by approving the updated RRO policy and implement immediately
- b) Do not approve the new policy and subsequently refrain from issuing various housing assistance across the borough

Recommendation(s):

a) The recommendation is for the Council to approve the renewed RRO Policy and implement immediately. Therefore ensuring Oldham adheres to its statutory obligation and continues to provide various types of private sector housing renewals to residents of Oldham Borough.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

There are no direct financial implications from adopting the amended RRO policy.

Any assistance granted will still be subject to individual scheme approvals. Any assistance will be dependent on anticipated levels of expenditure, capital or revenue budgets available and the availability of other funding mechanisms.

(David leach / John Hoskins)

What are the *procurement* implications?

N/A

What are the legal implications?

Alexander Bougatef Group Solicitor – Litigation. I agree with option A, to approve the updated regulatory reform policy. As stated it is a statutory obligation to have an up to date policy detailing the types of housing assistance available to the public therefore it is imperative that this is done. The update will allow those in greatest need to address important housing improvement needs and will provide better flexibility for those individuals / groups.

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

N/A

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)

Yes

What are the property implications

N/A

Risks:

Updating the RRO policy is good practice and will clarify and confirm the assistance available to residents.

(Mark Stenson)

Co-operative agenda

The discretionary grants available in the updated policy seeks to fulfil the same purpose as the existing policy documents, which is enable residents to remain in their own homes or find alternative housing solutions. In line with Oldham Council's cooperative theme of Thriving Communities, the renewed RRO policy would continue to drive this agenda by promoting independent living, in safe, warm and comfortable conditions. Through the range of

assistance available to residents, individuals would be able to take ownership of their housing situations and in the process improve the resilience of Oldham's communities.

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

There are no background papers for this report

Please list any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
Appendix 1:	RRO Policy: Types of Assistance 2019
Appendix 2:	RRO Policy: Types of Assistance 2009/12
Appendix 3:	EIA
Appendix 4:	CPB: DFG Report

Background

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order (RRO) 2002 was introduced 18 July 2002 and repealed the Regulatory Reform Act 2001. The new powers granted by the RRO 2002 enables a Local Authority (LA) to offer a range of grants which were previously issued under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, and subsequently amended by the introduction of the RRO 2002. The 1996 Act was the main grant issuing Act for a LA, offering various discretionary grants for the purpose of housing repairs and adaptations, until it was repealed in 2002 and subsequently revoked July 2003. Therefore ensuring the RRO 2002 became the main grant issuing Act for Local Authorities.

Along with a range of housing grants, the RRO 2002 also retained the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant (DFGs). The purpose of DFGs is to provide the means for disabled residents across all tenures to live comfortably in their homes, allowing movement and access into and around the home. The DFG is means tested, so the income of the applicant is taken into consideration to determine whether households are able to contribute.

Proposals

The proposal is for the Council to note the updates in the renewed RRO policy document and approve its immediate implementation across the borough. The proposal is driven by a number challenges Social Care and Housing respectively, specifically private sector housing. The types of assistance available in the renewed policy document are tailored to offer better response to Authority's housing related issues. As detailed in the updated policy, types of DFG assistance available are far more varied in comparison with the outdated policy dated 2009/12 (appendix 2). Moving forward, the updated policy would offer Oldham Council much needed flexibility to provide housing assistance to eligible applicants, who would not have previously received essential adaptations to their homes. A notable restriction of the previous mandatory DFG was the £30k grant limit, which still exists however, the inclusion of additional accessible grants in the updated policy has created the means for eligible applicants to apply for supplementary and top-up grants to enable essential works to be carried out.

Other important changes to the policy are, the removal of the New Build Home Buy scheme and Home Repairs Assistance due to resources and delivery. There are also new additions to the Policy with the addition of Home Security Assistance: Target Hardening, ensuring necessary safety measures can be put in place to allow vulnerable people to remain safe in their own home. The Empty Homes Grant is also a new addition and compliments the existing Empty Homes Equity Scheme. Along with additional types of the assistance, the existing types of assistance have been updated to reflect changes in funding or processes to ensure applicants have access to accurate information before an application is made.

Conclusions

As illustrated in the updated RRO policy document (appendix 1) Oldham Council offers a wide range of housing assistance renewals which residents can access in order to live comfortably in their own homes. Whilst LA do not have a statutory obligation to offer

various types of housing assistance in their district, it is strongly recommended. Acting upon this recommendation places a statutory obligation on a LA to produce a policy document that is available and accessible to the public. The updated policy (appendix 2) far better equipped to support the Authority in delivering on its priorities and objectives. The updated policy ensures Oldham Council continues to deliver a housing assistance that is fit for purpose and offers robust housing solutions in an ever-changing environment.

in consultation with: Helen Lockwood Deputy Chief Executive	e reopie and riace
Date:	

Types of assistance

Oldham Council
Housing Assistance and Home
Improvements Policy 2019
(Regulatory Reform Order)



Types of assistance

1. Introduction

This Policy has been assembled under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002. The Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) 2002 gives local authorities the power to provide housing assistance, improvements, renewals and adaptations to households across the borough. In order for a local authority to exercise the powers granted by the RRO, the Authority must produce a Policy outlining the types of housing assistance that is available to residents in its district. Efforts have been made to ensure that the types of assistance available adequately respond to the main challenges in the community, whilst delivering on Oldham Council's main priorities; particularly necessary home adaptations, essential repairs and housing assistance.

Article 3 of the RRO compiles together several grants that were previously issued under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 in July 2003, including the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). Under the new RRO powers, local authorities are now able exercise some flexibility where essential works may fall outside the limit of the mandatory grant, which was not the case prior to the introduction RRO 2002.

The Council's new RRO Policy would be kept under reviewed on an annual basis, and if necessary minor amendments would be made accordingly; to reflect the needs and requirements of Oldham Council's residents. Such amendments can be approved under delegated powers held by the Deputy Chief Executive of People and Place, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Member for Housing.

2. Background

The Regulatory Reform Order Policy was introduced on 18 July 2002 and repealed the Regulatory Reform Order 2001, and in the process granting local authorities the powers to offer grants for wide ranging forms of housing assistance. In order to exercise this power local authorities must produce a document that is available to the public, notifying residents of the types of assistance the Local Authority has on offer. The policy document must include; application process, conditions and eligibility for assistance.

3. Priorities of the Policy

- To strategically identify the types of housing assistance required and address the challenges in the private sector
- To encourage residents to live comfortably in their own homes by providing essential and necessary adaptations and home improvements

•	To effectively work with partners and residents across Oldham Council to improve Energy Efficiency standards in line with Central Government targets and reduce number of households in fuel poverty	

Types of Assistance Available

1.0 Adaptations Assistance

- 1.1 Mandatory Assistance Disabled Facilities Grant
- 1.2 DFG Proportionate Grant
- 1.3 Equity Loan: DFG-related
- 1.4 Discretionary Shortfall Assistance (DSA) DFG-related
- 1.5 Discretionary Contribution Assistance (DCA) DFG-related
- 1.6 Discretionary Relocation Assistance (DRA) DFG-related
- 1.7 Disabled Adaptations Assistance (DAA)
- 1.8 Minor Adaptations
- 2.0 Home Improve Equity Loan
- 3.0 Empty Home Equity Loan
- 4.0 Empty Homes Assistance
- 5.0 Warm Homes Oldham
 - 5.1 Safe Homes Assistance (SHA)
- 6.0 Home Security Assistance: Target Hardening
- 7.0 Private Sector Access Scheme
- 8.0 Charging (Private Sector)

Type of assistance	Mandatory Assistance - Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)
Purpose	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) is mandatory financial assistance to adapt homes to facilitate access into and around the dwelling, with a general objective of allowing people with disabilities to remain in their own homes, safely, in comfort and with increased independence, wherever possible.
Eligibility	All owner-occupiers, tenants or licensees regardless of age who are disabled can apply.
	The Disabled Facilities Grant is means tested (with the exception of children under 19 years).
	Landlord permission must be given before any works can take place to tenanted properties.
Eligible works	The works must be 'reasonable and practicable' within the age and condition of the property and also 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the needs of the client.
	To provide suitable access into and around the person's property, to provide accessibility to toilet, bathing and bedroom facilities, to enable the use of kitchen amenities where necessary and to operate power sources for lighting and heating.
	The Council can provide project management of any works required.
Financial arrangement	Funding for Disabled Facilities Grants i.e. for owner occupied properties, Registered Provider, (Housing Association) properties and privately rented properties, is means tested and may require a contribution to be made towards the cost of adaptations work.
	The maximum grant assistance is £30,000.
	NB Existing conditions for applications, repayments and disposals including breaches of conditions, will continue to remain in place.
Application	Requests for initial assessments are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447. Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post.
	Referrals are dealt with in date and priority order based upon the assessed risk to the client by the Occupational Therapist.
	Further information can also be viewed on the Government website www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants
Approvals	Adaptations will be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether the assessed needs of the client can be met by reasonable and practical means. All options are considered and the proposed works are the most 'reasonable and practical' for that particular case.

Payment provision	Payment of adaptation works to a maximum of £30,000 will be paid directly to the contractor / supplier, upon completion of the works and once any relevant electrical certificates have been received.
Conditions	Applicants must have a legal interest in the property to be adapted. Grants to owner occupiers exceeding £5k will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so that if the property is sold within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment of the grant up to a total of £10k must be repaid.
Contact details	Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ. Tel: 0161-770-1447

Type of assistance	DFG Proportionate Grants
Purpose	DFG Proportionate Grants are intended to support flexibility and choice for disabled people and their families who live-in Owner-Occupied properties and are eligible for DFG assistance.
	Where an assessed need has been established by an Occupational Therapist that would normally be processed via the Disabled Facilities Grant procedure, the client can choose an alternative scheme. The client's scheme must still provide the necessary facilities.
	The assistance would be limited to the council's estimation of the most economical way of providing for the assessed needs, and the client becomes responsible for covering any difference in cost.
Eligibility	Clients must be eligible for DFG assistance, and have an assessed medical need identified by an Occupational Therapist. Applicants will be means tested for grant funding, unless the client is under 19 years of age.
	Only clients who are not 'end of life' and are living in Owner Occupied properties can pursue this type of grant, due to the length of time this process takes to complete and due to a tenant being unlikely to want to pay for 'adaptation improvements' to a rented property.
Eligible works	Adaptations works that adequately provide for the assessed facilities of a client, providing that the work meets all necessary building regulation and planning permission approvals.
Financial arrangement	The amount of the grant will be limited to the Council's estimation of the most economical way of providing for the assessed needs, but will be limited to the mandatory DFG sum i.e. £30,000.
Application	Requests for initial assessment are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union

	Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447. Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post.
	Referrals are dealt with in date and priority order based upon the assessed risk to the client by the Occupational Therapist.
	Further information can also be viewed on the Government website www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants
	The Technical Officer assigned by the Equipment & Adaptations Team to process the application will provide the client with exact details of the process to follow.
Approvais	Clients will have to submit detailed proposed plans (1:20 scale) for Occupational Therapy and Technical Officer approval to ensure that their preferred option meets the assessed needs of the client.
	Once plans have been approved the client is responsible for submitting them to the Planning Department and/or Building Control for their approval where necessary. Subsequent to gaining approval, the client is responsible for selecting a contractor to carry out the works.
	Once all the necessary paperwork and information has been submitted and the Proportionate Grant approval has been given, the client will receive written notification of the amount of funding.
Payment provision	The agreed grant contribution towards the cost of the adaptation works will be paid directly to the contractor / supplier, upon completion of the works as per agreed plans, on receipt of relevant compliance certificates (including electrical certificates).
Conditions	Applicants must be owner occupiers and have a legal interest in the property to be adapted.
	The contractor must provide a written estimate addressed to the Council for the agreed grant sum along with a valid electrical certificate in order to receive payment.
	Grants exceeding £5k will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs) then the grant must be repaid up to a total of £10k.
Contact details	Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ. Tel: 0161-770-1447

Type of	Equity Loan (DFG Related)
assistance	
Purpose	To assist those in need of adaptations to their properties who are: eligible for DFG assistance and require work exceeding the maximum DFG of £30k and; are not able to move to more suitable accommodation, and have equity in their property
Eligibility	Owner occupiers regardless of age who are disabled or who have a disabled child can apply, providing they have equity in their property. This funding stream would only be considered where: the client is eligible for DFG funding, and the adaptations required would add value to the property
Eligible works	To provide suitable access into and around a person's property, to provide accessibility to toilet and bathing and bedroom facilities, to enable the use of kitchen amenities and to be able to operate power sources for lighting and heating as identified following an assessment by an Occupational Therapist. The Council can provide project management of the works identified.
Financial	This would follow the same procedure as the Councils Home
arrangement	Improvement Equity Loans procedure as set out below. The loans are free of regularised repayments with nothing to pay until your property changes ownership or change of title. However, each case will be assessed on its merits and discretion may be shown where applicable. At the time of application, the percentage of loan against the value of the property is calculated. When the property later changes ownership the percentage is applied to the new valuation at that time and the repayment amount is calculated. You can opt to repay the loan at any time. The maximum Equity Loan would be £25k (plus maximum DFG £30k)
Application	Requests for initial assessment are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447. Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post. Referrals are dealt with in date and priority order based upon the assessed risk to the client by the Occupational Therapist.
Approvals	DFG Equity Loans will be assessed and approved based on the individual merits of each case to determine whether the needs of the client can be met by reasonable and practical means, along with the amount of equity in their respective property.

Payment provision	Payment is made directly to the contractor by the Council upon satisfactory completion of the works.
Conditions	Applicants must have an owners / legal interest in the property to be adapted.
Contact details	Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ. Tel: 0161-770-1447

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Type of assistance	'Discretionary Shortfall' Assistance (DSA) (DFG - related)
Purpose	Discretionary Shortfall Assistance (DSA) is intended to assist applicants where the mandatory DFG limit is to be exceeded due to the cost / complexity of the works required.
	Discretionary Shortfall Assistance will only be considered after other options have been exhausted, and / or where the Council considers exceptional circumstances apply.
Eligibility	The grant is a 'top up' to a mandatory DFG, therefore applicants must:-
	 have qualified for the mandatory DFG award, and the costs of the eligible works exceed the maximum DFG award of £30k, and
	 the council has determined that other options, having been explored, cannot be pursued.
Eligible works	Works that have been determined as eligible for a DFG ('eligible works') but where the costs exceed the maximum award. The works must be:
	 'Reasonable and practicable' within the age and condition of the property and also 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the needs of the client.
	 To provide suitable access into and around the person's property, to provide accessibility to toilet, bathing and bedroom facilities, to enable the use of kitchen amenities where necessary and to operate power sources for lighting and heating.
Financial	Discretionary Shortfall Assistance will be:
arrangement	 means tested using the Adult Services test of resources procedure, and
	 protected by a local land charge for a period of 10 years, and be repayable should the property change ownership or change of title during this time frame. This is in addition to any charge already to be registered as part of the General Consent Order 2008.
Application	Requests for initial assessment are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447.

Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post.
Adaptations will be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether the needs of the client can be met by reasonable and practical means.
Clients will follow the normal Disabled Facilities Grant procedure and another financial assessment will carried out using the Adults Services procedure.
Referrals are dealt with in date and priority order based upon the assessed risk to the client by the Occupational Therapist.
The maximum DSG is £25k, therefore the total cost of assistance (Mandatory DFG plus Discretionary Shortfall Assistance) will not exceed £55,000.
Payment of adaptation works to a maximum of £55,000 will be made directly to the contractor / supplier, upon completion of the works, and once any relevant electrical certificates have been received.
Disabled Facilities Grants exceeding £5k will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (changes ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs) then repayment of the grant up to a total of £10k must be repaid.
Discretionary Shortfall Assistance is also subjected to a property charge in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (changes ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment of the total Discretionary Shortfall Grant must be made.
Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ. Tel: 0161-770-1447

Type of assistance	Discretionary Contribution Assistance (DCA) (DFG - related)
Purpose	To assist in cases where an applicant for a Disabled Facilities Grant cannot meet their assessed contribution towards the cost of the works.
Eligibility	Where a DFG applicant: has a legal interest in the property to be adapted, and has an identified assessed need (determined by an Occupational Therapist) where costs of works exceeds £10k, and

 cannot meet their contribution towards the cost of the works which has been determined by the statutory test of resources associated with the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant and; has been further means tested via the council's adult social care 	
financial assessment	i
The Council may, at its discretion, provide funding to meet the contribution.	
Eligible works Works that have been determined as eligible for a DFG ('eligible works)	ks').
The maximum Discretionary Contribution Assistance is £25k. The general rules relating to contribution and grant will apply in applications.	such
Application Requests for initial assessment are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447.	
Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post upon request.	ın
Adaptations will be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether the needs of the client can be met by reasonable and practic means. All options are considered and the proposed works are the more treasonable and practical for that particular case. Tenants living in Housing Association properties or privately rented properties must have landlord permission to carry out the works prior	al iost
grant approval being authorised.	
Payment Payment will be paid direct to the contractor or supplier upon comple of the adaptation works, an invoice and relevant electrical certificate.	tion
Where the applicant is an owner–occupier Discretionary Contributed Assistance will have a charge placed on the property in accordance the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (char ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repay of the total DCA must be made. This is in addition to any charge alreato be registered as part of the General Consent Order 2008 and the amount which can be reclaimed would be the maximum amount loans.	with ges the that nent eady total ed.
Gentact Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel: 0161-770-1447	•

Type of assistance	Discretionary Relocation Assistance (DRA) (DFG-related)
Purpose	A Discretionary Relocation Assistance (DRA) is intended to assist a Mandatory DFG applicant with the cost of moving to an adapted / more adaptable property.
Eligibility	 Those who need major adaptations, but where: it is impractical to provide the adaptation in the current home, or the adaptation would be excessively expensive at the client's existing property, and the applicant wishes to move to an adapted or more readily adaptable property, which enables a more cost-effective approach As a rule, relocation assistance will not be provided to retrospective property purchases, specifically in cases where contracts have been exchanged and / or which have had no input from the Occupational Therapist or Technical Officer.
Eligible works	The grant is to cover typical costs of moving, plus a contribution to the cost of the new property if required. Such costs may include but are not limited to: legal fees estate agent fees removal expenses stamp duty potential contribution towards the cost of the new property The property must be inspected by an Occupational Therapist and Technical Officer to determine whether it is suitable to meet the assessed needs of the client or requires less alteration to meet their
Financial arrangement	needs than the existing property. Subject to available funding, the maximum discretionary grant to facilitate relocation is £25k. Therefore, if a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant has also been approved, the maximum assistance available to a client would be £55k.
Application	Requests for initial assessment are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447. Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post. Once an assessed need has been identified and it has been determined that the client's needs cannot be met within the curtilage of the existing property, the case will be presented at the Adaptations Panel to agree potential funding for a relocation grant to assist with re-locating to a more suitable property.
Approvals	In all cases of relocation assistance, the proposed property must be inspected by an Occupational Therapist and Technical Officer to determine whether the property is suitable for the client's needs which

would result in no further adaptations – or fewer adaptations are needed compared to the current property occupied by the client. Relocation assistance will not, as a general rule, be made to fund an enhancement to the overall accommodation. In reaching a decision about a contribution, the Council will not approve this type of assistance if the acquisition places the applicant in negative equity. Funding adaptations to the proposed property should not, as a rule, equal or exceed the cost of necessary works at the original property, neither will funding be approved for retrospective house purchases including where contracts have been exchanged and / or which have had no input from the Occupational Therapist or Technical Officer. Payment provision Payment of Discretionary Relocation Assistance will be made upon receipt of invoices for the various fees and expenses. Conditions Where the applicant is an owner—occupier Discretionary Relocation Assistance will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (changes ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment of the total grant must be made. This is in addition to any charge already to be registered as part of the General Consent Order 2008. Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ. Tel: 0161-770-1447		
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this type of assistance if the acquisition places the applicant in negative equity. Funding adaptations to the proposed property should not, as a rule, equal or exceed the cost of necessary works at the original property, neither will funding be approved for retrospective house purchases including where contracts have been exchanged and / or which have had no input from the Occupational Therapist or Technical Officer. Payment provision Payment of Discretionary Relocation Assistance will be made upon receipt of invoices for the various fees and expenses. Where the applicant is an owner–occupier Discretionary Relocation Assistance will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (changes ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment of the total grant must be made. This is in addition to any charge already to be registered as part of the General Consent Order 2008. Contact Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ.		
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Assistance will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (changes ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment of the total grant must be made. This is in addition to any charge already to be registered as part of the General Consent Order 2008. Contact Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ.		
General Consent Order 2008. Contact Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ.	Conditions	Assistance will have a charge placed on the property in accordance with the General Consent Order 2008, so if the property is sold (changes ownership or change of title) within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment

Type of assistance	Disabled Adaptations Assistance (DAA)
Purpose	Disabled Adaptations Assistance (DAA) are intended to fund lower-cost adaptations, where the Council has determined that adaptations are needed which would normally attract a mandatory DFG.
	A DAA may be provided as an alternative to a mandatory DFG – and at the discretion of the Council - to assist in the funding of the works. DAA are intended to be a streamlined, less bureaucratic form of assistance in comparison to a DFG (e.g. it dispenses with a complex means test).
	This will only be available where the costs of the works are expected to be more than £1,000 and less than £10K.
Eligibility	Eligible clients must meet the below criteria:
	be entitled to apply for a mandatory DFG, and

	have a legal interest in the property
Eligible works	Works that have been determined as eligible for a DFG i.e. 'eligible works'.
Financial arrangement	The amount of the grant will be limited to the Council's estimation of the most economical way of providing for the assessed needs and be less than £10K.
Application	Requests for initial assessment are carried out by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447. Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post.
Approvals	Adaptations will be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether the assessed needs of the client can be met by reasonable and practical means.
Payment provision	Payment will be made directly to the contractor or supplier upon receipt of invoice and relevant electrical certificates.
Conditions	The total cost of the works must be between £1k and £10k.
	DAAs may not be processed concurrently with a DFG.
	Applicants must have a legal interest in the property to be adapted.
	Where DAA exceeding £5k is awarded to owner occupiers a charge will be placed on the property, similar to General Consent Order 2008 for the DFGs, so that if the property is sold within 10 years (for reasons other than the death of a client or that the client's condition has changed so much that the property can no longer meet their assessed needs), then repayment of the grant over £5k must be repaid.
Contact details	Equipment & Adaptations Team, The Link Centre, Oldham, OL1 1DZ. Tel: 0161-770-1447

Type of assistance	Minor Adaptations
Purpose	The purpose of Minor Adaptations assistance is to enable vulnerable applicants to return home / continue living in their home with increased safety, to improve their wellbeing and maintain their independence.
Eligibility	This form of assistance, as funding permits, may be awarded in circumstances where the work:

	 enables a vulnerable person to live with increased safety in their home, improves their wellbeing and maintains their independence. are deemed necessary to allow the applicant to return to their home safely e.g. from a stay in hospital
Eligible works	Works eligible for assistance may include, but are not limited to: grab rails additional stair rail drop down rails offset rails additional steps low level thresholds
Financial	A total amount of £1k will be available for completing eligible works
arrangement Application	An assessment must be completed by a council – approved 'appropriate professional' (e.g. health clinician, social worker) to determine which works would be required to allow someone to return home to / continue living in their home with increased safety.
	Council - approved 'appropriate professionals' are aware of the correct procedure to follow and will forward the referral to the appropriate supplier.
Approvals	An assessment must be completed by an 'appropriate professional' to determine which works would be required.
Payment provision	Payment will be made directly to the Councils approved delivery agent / contractor upon receipt of invoice and relevant certificates.
Conditions	 The total cost of works to be completed at each property will be a maximum of £1k Landlord permission must be gained prior to completing any works in properties owned by Registered Providers (Housing Associations) or private landlords.
Contact details	Access is via the COTT duty team or via Council - approved 'appropriate professionals' - such as those involved in Warm Homes – who are aware of the correct procedure to follow and how to refer to the appropriate/approved supplier.
	Requests for assessment by the Community Occupational Therapy Team (COTT), The Link Centre, 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ Tel. no. 0161 770 1447. Referral forms can be found on www.oldham.gov.uk/cottreferral or can be sent out by post.
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Type of	'Home Improve' Equity Loan
assistance	
Purpose	A loan facility to help homeowners across the borough finance repairs and improvements to their home.
Eligibility	Loans are only available to people eligible for state benefits or on low income and who could not otherwise use usual methods to finance the work.
Eligible works	Measures typically covered are aimed towards meeting the Government 'Decent Homes Standard' e.g. rewiring, re-roofing, replacement windows/doors, central heating, new bathroom/kitchen, damp proofing, etc. Also, where eligible to deal with overcrowding issues. The Council provides project management of the works identified.
Financial	The loans are free of regularised repayments with nothing to pay until your
arrangement	property changes ownership or change of title. However each case will be assessed on its merits and discretion may be shown where applicable. At the time of application the percentage of loan against the value of the property is calculated. When the property later changes ownership the percentage is applied to the new valuation at that time and the repayment amount is calculated. You can opt to repay the loan at any time.
Application	The Council's appointed service provider will administer the loan scheme, however all initial enquiries should be made to the Council.
Approvals	Home Improve Equity Loans will be approved by the Response Services Manager or Head of Public Protection.
Payment provision	Payment is made directly to the contractor by the Council on satisfactory completion of the works.
Conditions	Repayment of loan as a percentage of the property value when changes in ownership occur or at the request of the owner.
Contact details	Economy, Skills & Neighbourhood Directorate Public Protection Sir Robert Peacock House Vulcan Street, Derker Oldham, OL1 4LA
	Phone 0161 770 5494 Email:darren.mcgrattan@oldham.gov.uk

Type of	Empty Home Equity Loan
assistance	
Purpose	To encourage owners of long term empty properties to bring them back into use. The offer of a loan is subject to the owner of the empty home entering a Lease Agreement with Oldham Council for a period of 3-5 years.
Eligibility	Equity Loans will be made available to owners of empty homes, when the following criteria is met: Homes must have been empty & in the same ownership for at least 24 months Loans are only available to owners that own no more than 2 homes Repairs, maintenance and property management to be overseen by the Council or a designated partner.
Eligible works	Equity Loans will be available for:- Repairs required to bring the property up to the Decent Homes Standard & any other works required to make the home suitable for letting.
Financial arrangement	Equity Loans, payable upon the sale of the home, will be offered in return for the Council leasing the home for a fixed period (to offer assured shorthold tenancies) depending on the amount of the loan Loan Amount Lease Period £25,000+ 7 years £15,000-£24,999 5 years <£15,000 3 years • Equity loans will be secured as a legal charge against the home. Loan is subject to repayment on sale or transfer of ownership • The equity in the property must be greater than the amount of the loan. The property will be valued by the District Valuer prior to any loan been agreed. • The maximum loan amount will be two-thirds of the market value of the home. • The owner or their representative may choose to terminate the lease by repaying all monies outstanding at the end of a tenancy.
Application	The Council's appointed service provider will administer the loan scheme, however all initial enquiries should be made to the Council.
Approvals	The service provider will issue the formal loan agreement, on the recommendation from Oldham Council Head of Public Protection or Response Services Manager.

	 Approval will be for the owner of the empty home and is non-transferable. Approvals for equity loans will be made within the adopted policy and budgets available at the time of the application.
Payment	Payment will made directly to the approved contractor agreed by the
provision	Council, following inspection of the completed works and on receipt of
	relevant certificates and warranties.
Conditions	Contractor should be on Construction Line and approved and by the
	Council.
Contact details	Public Protection
	Sir Robert Peacock House
	Vulcan Street, Derker
	Oldham, OL1 4LA
	Phone 0161 770 5494
	Email:darren.mcgrattan@oldham.gov.uk

Type of	Empty Homes Assistance
assistance	
Purpose	Oldham Council in partnership with government agencies would assist empty home owners to bring their assets back into use, to reduce the appearance of empty homes and increase housing supply in borough.
Eligibility	Grants are available to owners who meet each of the below criteria: Owner of a long-term empty home located in Oldham borough Proof of ownership
Eligible works	Subject to funding all works required to bring an empty home up to Decent Homes Standard will be eligible including, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, energy and fuel improvements and gas safety certificate etc.
Financial	Owners would receive a grant sum from the Council in exchange for
arrangement	securing a 7 year's lease from the home owner. The grant sum payable to the owner on acquisition would be determined on each individual property, based on the property's condition and location.
Application	If your property meets the eligibility criteria you can make contact with the Housing Strategy Team or Housing.strategyprs@oldham.gov.uk
Approvals	 The Council's Legal Department draft and engross the formal agreement with the owner's legal representative, as instructed by the Head of Strategy and Property Partnerships. Approval will be for the owner of the empty home and is non-transferable Approvals for grants will be made within the adopted policy and budgets available at the time of the application.
Payment provision	Payment of approved grant sums will be made by Oldham Council to the owner or their legal representative following agreement of a formal lease document. On securing a legal interest in the lease Oldham Council will assign the property to an approved contractor to carry out agreed works to bring the empty up to Decent Homes Standard. Payment will be made directly to the contractor following a joint inspection of the completed works and on receipt of certificates and warranties.
Conditions	The empty home owner must adhere to the below conditions prior to approval of a grant: Owners must agree to enter a 7 year's lease Owners must seek written permission from lenders and mortgage providers Owners must provide written commitment to a lease arrangement
Contact details	Housing Strategy Oldham Civic Centre

Level 3, Room 301 West Street Oldham OL1 1UH

Phone: 0161 770 6583

Email: Housing.strategyprs@oldham.gov.uk

Type of	Warm Homes Oldham
assistance	warm nomes Oldnam
Purpose	Oldham Council, NHS Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Oldham Housing Investment Partnership (OHIP) have established the Warm Homes Oldham scheme to help tackle fuel poverty in the borough. The scheme takes advantage of a number of different funding streams to help households out of fuel poverty by offering them a range of support, including:
	Assessment and Referral Service:
	 Energy efficiency and behaviour change advice: To ensure that residents know how to save money and heat their home efficiently. Small energy efficiency measures: Install draught proofing, LED light bulbs, reflective radiator panels, etc. Referral to Age UK: Elderly residents who need extra support are referred onto Age UK for their services (e.g. handy-van, PIP). They also have a small budget for helping residents in emergencies (e.g. small home repairs, aids & adaptations, furniture, bedding etc.). Referral to other partner services: Referrals to other preventative services are made as and when required (e.g. for fire safety checks or food bank vouchers).
	Income Maximisation Service:
	 Benefits entitlement check: To ensure residents are claiming everything they are entitled to. Energy and water debt: If residents have over £200 debt with their energy or water suppliers, we may be able to apply for a grant to get it cleared. Energy tariff check: Help with switching energy supplier or tariff. Warm Homes Discount: Help with applying for the £140 Warm Homes Discount on winter fuel bill for certain groups. Prepayment / card meters: Help with getting off a prepayment meter if they are not suitable for the household. Emergency Credit: Up to two lots of £30 emergency credit vouchers can be issued in a 12 month period. Trust Fund Grants: Help with applying for Trust Fund grants for furniture or white goods.
	Energy Efficiency Works:
	 Heating measures: Repair or replace broken or inefficient boilers and heating systems. Install first time central heating systems. Insulation measures: Install loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation.
Eligibility	Anyone living in Oldham who is struggling to heat their home can contact Warm Homes Oldham for help – regardless of age, income or tenure.

	Every household that comes to Warm Homes Oldham for help receives an individual assessment to identify what type of support they need.
	For heating and insulation measures, households must be eligible for Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding under the OFGEM criteria or the Greater Manchester flexible eligibility criteria.
	Warm Homes Oldham can provide a top-up to cover any shortfall in ECO funding to owner occupiers only. Landlords and tenants of private and social housing are not eligible for this top-up, as the landlords are responsible for these repairs or improvements.
Eligible works	 Small energy efficiency measures – draught proofing, LED light bulbs, reflective radiator panels, etc. Heating measures: Repair or replace broken or inefficient boilers and heating systems. Install first time central heating systems. Insulation measures: Install loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation.
Financial	The Assessment and Referral Service and Income Maximisation
arrangement	Service are fully funded by Warm Homes Oldham.
	 Energy Efficiency Works are funded by ECO, which is dependent on household circumstances including income and current home energy efficiency. Warm Homes Oldham can provide a top-up to cover any shortfall in ECO funding to owner occupiers only. First time central heating is available from the Greater Manchester Warm Homes Fund, which is allocated on a first-come first-served basis until it runs out.
Application	
Application	To apply for help Warm Homes Oldham, residents (or referral agencies) should contact the scheme to book a home visit via:
	Web: www.warmhomesoldham.org
	E-mail: warmhomes@oldham.gov.uk
	 Phone: 0800 019 1084
Approvals	Warm Homes Oldham funding is approved by the Warm and Healthy Homes Board, which has senior representation from all of the scheme's funders. Individual applications are approved by Oldham Council's Principal Housing Energy Officer.
Payment	ECO funding is claimed by our delivery partners directly from energy
provision	companies. Top-up funding payments are made directly to the delivery
	partners by the Council on satisfactory completion of the works.
Conditions	Applicants must be residents of homes within the Oldham borough.
Contact	Warm Homes Oldham, Oldham Council,
details	Room 310, Level 3, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH Phone: 0161 770 4798
	Email: warmhomes@oldham.gov.uk

Type of	Safe Homes Assistance (SHA)
assistance	Cale Homes Assistance (STA)
Purpose	The purpose of the Safe Homes Assistance (SHA) is to enable vulnerable applicants to: • return home to, or continue living in, their home with increased health and safety and/or • to prevent, where reasonably possible, admission / re-admission to hospital
Eligibility	Subject to available funding, this form of assistance may be awarded to vulnerable applicants (home owners or tenants), in circumstances where: • the work enables a vulnerable person to live in increased safety, improves their wellbeing and maintains their independence, avoiding hospital admission • a vulnerable person is being discharged from hospital and the works are deemed necessary to allow the applicant to return to their home safely An assessment must be completed by an 'appropriate professional' (e.g.
	health clinician, social worker) to determine which works would be required.
Eligible works	 Works eligible for assistance may include, but are not limited to: Deep cleaning De-cluttering Minor Building repairs Heating repairs Electrical repairs and includes such items / circumstances which are not currently covered via the Warm Homes scheme but are required for a Warm Homes intervention to be completed This assistance is not aimed at providing general home improvements or for providing adaptations - where the GFA or mandatory DFG, depending upon the needs of the client, may be more appropriate.
Financial arrangement Application	A total amount of £5k will be available for completing eligible works The works must be assessed by an 'appropriate professional' as required to:
	allow someone to return home / continue living in their home with increased safety and to prevent, where reasonably possible, admission / re-admission to hospital. Work will be considered / prioritised as determined by its likely impact on the health of occupants. This is not an open referral route: council - approved 'appropriate professionals' - such as those involved in Warm Homes or Minor Adaptations provision - are aware of the correct procedure to follow and how to refer to the appropriate/approved supplier.

Approvals	An assessment must be completed by an 'appropriate professional' to determine the works required.
Payment provision	Payment will be made directly to the Councils approved delivery agent / contractor upon receipt of invoice and any relevant certificates.
Conditions	 The total cost of works to be completed at each property will be a maximum of £5k Landlord permission must be gained prior to completing any building works in properties owned by Registered Providers (Housing Associations) or private landlords.
Contact details	Warm Homes Oldham, Oldham Council, Room 310, Level 3, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH Phone: 0161 770 4798 Email: warmhomes@oldham.gov.uk

Type of	Home Security Assistance: Target Hardening
assistance	
Purpose	Target hardening of accommodation may be considered to assist individuals who are assessed as vulnerable and at significant risk of harm. The purpose of the target hardening is to improve home security in order to reduce risk.
Eligibility	There is no automatic eligibility for target hardening. Each case is assessed accordingly to the level of vulnerability and the behaviours an individual or family is subject to
Eligible works	Any works deemed necessary to afford required level of protection. May include works to doors, windows and lighting. Alarms and CCTV may be considered in exceptional cases.
Financial arrangement	There is no specific grant or funding stream for these works. Monies will be sourced predominantly from Community Safety Services however funding may also be sourced from other services if available. A shared funding arrangement may also be agreed dependent upon the circumstances of the individual.
Application	Referrals for target hardening can be made into Community Safety Services by all partners, however each case is considered individually and there is no guarantee that target hardening will take place.
Approvals	Approval for target hardening measures will be made according to the circumstances of the case, and available funding for the works. In the event of Community Safety Services having insufficient funding and alternative sources of funding not be being available, then target hardening works will not be carried out.
Payment provision	All works are ordered through Community Safety Services and payment is made to the contractor according to the works required in each individual case.
Conditions	Any products or services supplied as part of the target hardening works carried are gifted to the individual. The Council does not retain any liability for maintenance of the target hardening products (outside of manufacturer guarantee periods) or legal responsibilities relating to the works carried out.
Contact	Lorraine Kenny
details	Community Safety Manager
	Community Safety Services
	Level 9 Civic Centre
	West Street
	Oldham OL1 1UT
	Email: css.admin@oldham.gov.uk

Type of	Private Rented Sector Access Schemes
assistance	
Purpose	The Council's Private Rented Sector (PRS) Access Schemes is designed to provide greater access into the private sector for tenants, as well as granting landlords access to suitable tenants. Key focus of the scheme being to connect private landlords with tenants referred by Oldham Council.
Eligibility	Eligible tenants must be homeless or there must be a threat of homelessness to eligible for access via one the scheme. Eligible landlords must be fit and proper persons with safe, suitable and compliant properties which meet the HHSRS minimum standards.
Eligible works	All types of works required to make the property safe, compliant and habitable for residents. Works to restore the property from a dilapidated state following the end of a tenancy are also eligible, providing the tenant in place was introduced by the Council.
Financial arrangement	The maximum Bond allocated to each property will not exceed £1,300. A portion of the Bond amount will be paid to the Landlord or their authorised agent, whilst the outstanding agreed amount will be held in a Bond Agreement for the duration of the let with the successful tenant, introduce to the landlord by the Council.
Application	Tenants must apply for a Bond via their designated Housing Pathway Advisor at Oldham Council. Landlords may opt into the scheme directly by notifying the Council's Housing Team.
Approvals	To be approved by a Principal Officer in the Housing Strategy Team.
Payment provision	All issued Bonds will be to the value of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and will be subject to available funding at the time. Payments will be made directly to the Landlord or their authorised agent by the Council, on receipt of a valid tenancy agreement and compliance certificates.
Conditions	Landlords must ensure their properties meet HHSRS minimum standards and are required to declare themselves as being fit and proper persons. Tenants cannot self-refer into the scheme, to be considered an assessment must be taken by a Housing Pathway Advisor.
Contact details	Housing Strategy Oldham Civic Centre Level 3, Room 301 West Street

Oldham OL1 1UH

Phone: 0161 770 6583

Email: Housing.strategyprs@oldham.gov.uk

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Type of	Charging (Private sector)
assistance	
Purpose	To make an appropriate and reasonable charge, as means of recovering administrative and other expenses incurred by the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team from certain enforcement activity.
Eligibility	Legal basis to charge for certain enforcement action under various legislative powers.
Eligible works	Recovery of expenses incurred by:
	Serving an Improvement Notice
	Making a Prohibition Order
	Taking Emergency Remedial Action
	Making an Emergency Prohibition order
	Making a Demolition Order
Financial	An expense payable to the Council of £300 per service of any of the above
arrangement	legal notice/order which will be added as a local land charge
Application	n/a
Approvals	At the discretion of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team.
Payment provision	Recovery of £300 per legal notice/order served (as above).
Conditions	Prior notification, where possible and reasonable will be given to all interested parties of the Council's intention to recover its expenses, for
	determining whether to take such action and serving the notice or order.
Contact	Environments Health (Neighbourhood Enforcement)
details	Public Protection
1	Chadderton Town Hali
	Middleton Road, Chadderton
	OL9 6PP
	Phone 0161 770 2244
	Email: Envhealth@oldham.gov.uk