Report of the Chief Executive

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT POLICY

1.   Purpose of report

        To advise Committee of a proposal to amend the Disabled Facilities Grant
        (DFG) policy.

2.   Detail

        The Council, in its role as a local housing authority, is under a statutory duty
        by virtue of the provisions of the Housing Grants Construction and
        Regeneration Act 1996 (the Act) to provide DFGs for private sector residential
        adaptations where the appropriate legislative conditions are met.

        Although the provision of mandatory DFGs is covered by the Act and the
        Council must comply with the legislation, the Council has a policy (adopted by
        Housing Committee on 17 January 2017, and further amended on 3 June
        2020) which is applied in the provision of DFGs with regard to matters not
        covered by the legislation.

        The capital allocation for grants is awarded from central government annually.
        Second tier authorities administer the process but there is considerable input
        from the Occupational Therapists at Nottinghamshire County Council.

        For a considerable period of time, officers from all the authorities in the county
        have been working to create a "common DFG policy" across the whole of
        Nottinghamshire in order to try and reduce differences in service due to the
        different policies which exist. However, it has been accepted that there is
        always likely to be differences in the policies which authorities adopt for the
        award of discretionary grants. This can be down to demand for DFGs, local
        needs, etc. However, it was felt that despite the differences, there was work
        which could be done to standardise some key areas of DFG policy across the
        county.

        An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as appendix 1. A table showing
        the proposed changes which affect Broxtowe's policy is attached at appendix
        2. A copy of the proposed policy, including the revisions, is attached at
        appendix 3.

Recommendation
Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the revised Disabled Facilities Grant Policy be approved.

Background papers
Nil