



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee


Wednesday, 1 July 2026

Report of Councillor Virginia Moran,  
Cabinet Member for Housing

## Disabled Facility Grants Update

### Report Author

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### Purpose of Report

To provide an updated position for the delivery of disabled facility grants (DFG) to residents of the district, for the financial year 2025/2026.

### Recommendations

**The Committee is asked to:**

- 1. Note the content of the report and the improvement in service delivery, in particular end to end times for delivery of the disabled facility grants.**

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Housing
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 The financial summary of the DFG budget for 2025/26 (subject to external audit review) is:

2025/26 Budget	£1,304,292
2025/26 Provisional Outturn	£1,394,470
Variance	£90,178

- 1.2 As highlighted in the table above there is a provisional overspend of £90,178 on the DFG programme for 2025/26. This can be funded from underspends in prior years which are currently held in a DFG grant reserve.

*Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer.*

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.3 This is a report for information only, therefore there are no governance implications.

*Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager*

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 This report sets out key information relating to disabled facility grants. This includes key performance metrics such as end-to-end times, approval and completion figures, and spend position for the financial year 2025/26. This follows on from the improvements made within the team and will have a comparison of key areas since 23/24.

- 2.2 There are two categories of DFGs, mandatory and discretionary. Mandatory grants are up to £30,000 and are a statutory function set by legislation. However, an additional piece of legislation allows Local Authorities to provide discretionary grants on the condition that there is a policy which details the type of assistance which can be provided and that the policy is published. At South Kesteven District Council both mandatory and discretionary grants are offered.

- 2.3 The funding for DFGs is provided to South Kesteven District Council from a Government grant known as the Better Care Fund. Over the last few years increased importance has been placed upon preventative care by the Government and the Councils funding allocation has increased incrementally from £975,000 in 2022/23 to £1,304,292 for 2025/26 as detailed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Total Grant Award**

Year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Amount	£1,060,402	£1,210,187	£1,304,292

- 2.4 The team responsible for the delivery of DFG's sits within the Private Sector Housing Team and since the last update to this Committee in 2023 the team has changed to meet the demands on the service and increase in funding. The team now consists of the following roles which are detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Team roles**

Role	Number of roles	Full/part time
Senior Housing Grants Officer	1	Full time
Housing Grants Officer	1	Full time
Disabled facility grants Surveyors	2	1 Part time 1 full time (fixed term)
DFG Technical Support Officer	1	Full time

- 2.5 There has been an overall increase of one full time surveyor on a fixed term contract, and an alteration to the Technical Support Officer role from fixed term to permanent. These changes have been necessary and are resulting in a significant and maintained improvement in service delivery.
- 2.6 The overall performance per financial year has improved and is now performing steadily even with increased demand on the service. Key metrics are detailed in Table 3 below:

**Table 3 – Key Metrics for comparison**

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Referrals received	250	230	208
Grants approved	171	162	163
Grant Completed	136	151	162
Survey waiting list as of March.	32	21	15

Maximum survey waiting time	12 months	5 months	3 months
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2.7 The figures show a steady demand with an increased number of cases approved and completed. The survey waiting list and maximum time has decreased substantially. The improvements have led to an overall reduction in cases in the pipeline meaning the historical backlog has been reduced.

2.8 The Annual Government Return focuses on the waiting times for four key stages on the DFG process.

- Stage 1 – First contact to assessment and Identification of relevant works
- Stage 2 - Identification of relevant works to submission of formal grant application.
- Stage 3 – Grant Application to grant approval.
- Stage 4 – Approval to grant completion of works.

The Council is not responsible for Stage 1 and therefore does not report on this as this work is completed by Occupational Therapy Teams at Lincolnshire County Council. The remaining stages are the responsibility of the Council, and Table 4 below shows the average number of days between each stage in the last three financial years:

**Table 4 – Average Days for each Stage per financial year.**

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Stage 2	247	51	39
Stage 3	10	15	19
Stage 4	65	90	93

2.9 The average number of days for each stage is a key performance indicator. Stage 2 has seen the biggest improvement which has resulted in a knock-on effect to stages 3 and 4 which have also seen an increase. However, this is not a concern currently and comparison to the 2024/25 national data for the East Midlands and England for stage 3 shows the Council is below the average times. The increase in time for works to be completed is due to the increasing number of complex and difficult cases and the lead in time for contractors to start on site.

2.10 Each year all Councils are provided with a scorecard based upon the Annual return, in 2023/24 South Kesteven District Council ranked in the bottom 17.8% for delivery times in England, following the improvement in 2024/25 performance increased to top 21.8% in England. Given the figures for the year 2025/26 it is anticipated that the performance will remain in the region of the top 25% for delivery times on completion of the annual return.

- 2.11 The amount spent on grants has increased year on year and whilst at the time of this report the final figure for 2025/26 cannot be confirmed as we work through the final outturn figures it is estimated to be £1,394,470.

### **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 The changes made have improved the delivery of the service against comparable benchmarks.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 None – as this report is for information only no other options have been considered.

### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1 To provide an update on the position and delivery of Disabled Facility Grants in the Private Housing Sector.