

## Disabled facilities grant and other loans – Policy under review (JUNE 2016)

**Maldon District Council** can provide financial assistance and support to help meet the cost of providing adaptations and in some cases re-housing for people with disabilities including children. The detail of the Council's policy is under review but the following requirements currently apply:

- The need must be recommended or supported by an occupational therapist or similar on behalf of Essex County Council, often referred to as a 'scheme'
- You must be eligible for financial assistance and will be required to provide financial details to confirm this. In some cases the Council may make only a partial contribution towards the costs
- The proposed scheme must be feasible and make best use of the property, funding and other options - for example, in the case of tenants whose landlord is a housing association, it may be more feasible to move to a similar property that is already adapted
- If your property is rented, the landlord must give consent and, as the owner, may also be expected to make a contribution towards the cost of the scheme. If the landlord refuses to make a reasonable contribution towards the cost of a scheme, this may cause delay
- In making an assessment, the Council will take into account the current and longer term needs, and provides a more sustainable solution
- The Council can, with your agreement, also provide support as an agent on your behalf and your landlord and will charge an agreed fee for this service to cover the cost
- You can choose your own contractor to carry out the work but this must either be shown to be the most competitive price or you may have to pay the difference if the agreed funding is less than that charged by the contractor of choice
- Priority is based on an assessment of both the level and urgency of need and time waiting. For this reason applicants moving into the District, especially into properties that they know are not suitable to meet their needs, may have a reduced priority. The current policy requires applicants to be resident in the District for more than 3 years in order to have priority
- The Council will seek to encourage the progression of all cases, from assessment to completion, as quickly as possible but may have to defer lower priority cases if there is inadequate funding for the current year and other higher priority cases are outstanding

Higher priority may include but is not limited to

- being unable to return home from hospital, care or alternative temporary accommodation
- suffering from a condition that is quickly being made worse by the need for adaptation, creating a significant risk of health and safety

Lower priority may include

- having a condition that is static
- managing in existing property without serious risk or impact to health and wellbeing
- choosing to move into the area and / or property that is less suitable

The Council may use its discretion to increase the number and improve the outcomes of cases but this has to be subject to funding available within the current year. Cases which are deferred or delayed will be prioritised through waiting time if this is necessary.

