

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I098598
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1. **TITLE:** Housing Assistance Policy: Enabling Independent Living

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval for an updated Housing Assistance Policy to offer wider financial support to older and disabled people to enable them to live independently at home for as long as possible.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing

6. **DECISION:**

That

1 The Housing Assistance Policy be approved and reviewed by officers at 5-yearly intervals.

2 Authority be delegated to the Executive Director: People in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing to:

- (a) Make minor amendments to the policy to comply with legislation and guidance.
- (b) To suspend the approval of any discretionary housing assistance offered in the policy.
- (c) To introduce new assistance to help vulnerable, disabled and older residents should funding become available.
- (d) To set the annual level of funding to be made available for discretionary assistance offered under the policy, in the first year of implementation to be set at a maximum of 15% of the annual DFG budget.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The Council is required by law to adopt and publish a policy detailing any assistance it wishes to offer which exceed the mandatory disabled facilities grant.

The focus of the Housing Assistance Policy is one of prevention and is to enable independent living, by supporting those whose independence may be at risk to access housing (including their current home), which meets their needs.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

To not develop or approve a policy would limit Bracknell Forest to being able to deliver Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants only.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None.

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
14 December 2021	21 December 2021