

## Appendix B

### EXTRACT FROM COMMITTEE

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Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

1 February 2024

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#### 37. Aids and Adaptations Policy

Amy Larder, Interim Maintenance Manager:

- a) presented a report to provide information and guidance on our Aids and Adaptations service, providing clarity for service providers and users, and to seek approval for the introduction of the Aids and Adaptations Policy attached at Appendix A
- b) reported that the policy identified regulatory requirements, who was eligible to use the service, and types of adaptations that could be provided through the service, together with the approvals process and timescales for approved works
- c) described the key aims of the policy to enable the provision of a high quality and cost-effective adaptations service to assist those in need of adaptations to make informed choices about their housing options, raise awareness of the service and identify our approach in handling requests for adaptations
- d) advised that the City of Lincoln Council offered tenants permanent and temporary adaptations to their homes to ensure their homes remained suitable for their individual needs, working with partners and agencies, including Lincolnshire County Council to provide adaptations to our housing stock
- e) highlighted that within the last financial year 2022/2023 we received 221 referrals for adaptation to properties, 95 of those referrals were for major adaptations to our properties, including wet room installations
- f) emphasised that the Council was committed to ensuring council tenants and their immediate family who had a disability could as far as possible continue to live safely and independently and be able to carry out day to day activities
- g) described in further detail the contents of the aids and adaptations policy, which identified the regulatory and legal framework for who was considered for the policy, covering the following main topic areas:
  - Minor Adaptations
  - Major Adaptations
  - Referral Areas
  - Approval
  - Funding
  - Performance Monitoring
  - Communications

- h) requested agreement for implementation of the policy for Aids and Adaptations to provide clarity and to communicate the policy as identified in section 4.9 of the officer's report.

Members discussed the content of the report in further detail.

The following questions/comments emerged from the discussions held:

- Question: Was it possible for items such as lever operated water taps and handrails on both sides of internal staircases to be installed as standard in council dwellings?
- Response: A new tap design was in the process of being sourced, however, lever taps were specifically designed to an individual's medical needs and could not be installed as standard. The standard issue was for one handrail to be installed, however, bespoke rails were also added to dwellings to suit individual medical needs.
- Comment: It would be helpful to include the availability of aids and adaptations in the Tenancy Agreement so that residents knew there was an option to offer assistance in later life.
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RESOLVED that the policy for Aids and Adaptations, including communication as identified in section 4.9 of the officer's report be agreed and progressed to Executive for formal approval.