

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Making the Decision

Chief Executive

### Recommendation

That a financial contribution of £347,376 be made to support the Leicestershire Better Care Fund in 2016/17.

### Reason

To comply with Cabinet resolution 5.3 of the Cabinet meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### Authority for Decision

Cabinet Minute 5.3 of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 resolved that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any support for the Better Care Fund that is to be provided by the Council

### Decision and Date

APPROVED



21 SEPTEMBER 2016

### Background

On 9<sup>th</sup> June Cabinet received a report from the Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services regarding the treatment of the allocations for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2016/17. The Cabinet also received a report from the Overview Scrutiny Group.

### Cabinet resolved

1. that the Council ensures that its 2016/17 Disabled Facilities Grant Allocation is processed in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government as set out in the grant determination letter of 18th April 2016 (published as a background paper to the report of the Chief Executive, filed with these minutes);
2. that the Chief Executive continues dialogue with Leicestershire County Council and other partners as may be required to develop proposals

through which the Council can support the Better Care Fund in Leicestershire;

3. that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any support for the Better Care Fund that is to be provided by the Council;
4. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

#### Reasons

1. To ensure that the Government's requirements are complied with.

2&3. To enable the Council to play a full and appropriate role in support of this important partnership.

4. To acknowledge the work undertaken and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

In order to implement the Cabinet resolutions the Chief Executive wrote to the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council. The response from the County Council invited Charnwood Borough Council to develop proposals with other partners, notably the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and other Leicestershire District Councils. As a result, during June and July, discussions ensued with those partners. There was no unanimous agreement on the way forward.

Nonetheless, the outcome of those discussions was used as the basis of a suggested way forward considered by the Integration Executive of the Better Care Fund on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Integration Executive concluded that it would recommend to the Health and Wellbeing Board that Charnwood Borough Council should receive its full DFG allocation for 2016/17 provided that a contribution is made to the Better Care Fund by Charnwood Borough Council. Cabinet had already resolved that the Borough Council should support the Better Care Fund in 2016/17 and so this provides a way resolve matters. Therefore, this has the effect of discharging Cabinet resolution 5.1.

Also, during August, further advice was received from officials at the Department of Health which confirmed that "the grant allocation documents and LASSL letters advise that, in upper tier areas, county councils are required to pass on the full amount of the DFG to districts, unless otherwise agreed with them in advance."

"BCF plans are assured regionally by NHS England and local partners and government representatives. They are then formally approved by NHS England at their Executive Group Meeting. Part of the assurance process involves plans meeting the national conditions as set on in the BCF Policy Framework. The LASSL letter was intended to supplement the BCF Policy Framework, but the contents do not form part of the framework per se."

The BCF Plan was regionally assured and then approved without conditions by NHS England and the Government.

By paying over the allocated amount of Disabled Facilities Grant to Charnwood Borough Council of £772,425k rather than the £425,049 assumed in the now approved Better Care Fund Plan there will be a shortfall in funding for the BCF Plan of £347,376.

Therefore by reimbursing the Better Care Fund with that amount then the grant conditions will be met without impacting on the financing of the Better Care Fund.

The Department of Health has confirmed that, according to the BCF plan, the remaining DFG funding (i.e. the amount of the DFG that the BCF Plan assumed would be retained) will be spent on services formerly covered by the Social Care Capital Grant (also capital). This is one of the grant conditions set out in the grant determination letter of 18th April 2016.

### **Financial Implications**

An amount of £347,376 will be paid to Leicestershire County Council funded from the Council's Capital Plan.

The Council's 2016/17 Capital Plan contains an amount of £399,700 to provide a range of housing grants including adaptations to Private Sector and Registered Providers homes so that residents can continue to live independently in their own homes, emergency remedial works to low income owner occupied households, the installation of community alarms/assistive technologies and partnership grants to bring long term empty properties back in use.

Receipt of the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation in the Better Care Fund will mean that much of this funding will no longer be required for those purposes and so can be used as the source of funding, together with any underspend of the DFG allocation received, to reimburse the Better Care Fund in 2016/17.

### **Risk Management**

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision:	Yes
Date included on Forward Plan	23 August 2016
Background Papers:	Cabinet Report 9 <sup>th</sup> June OSG Report Background Papers from Cabinet Report 9 <sup>th</sup> June

Leicestershire Health and wellbeing  
board: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 - Report of  
Leicestershire Integration  
Programme Better Care Fund  
Refresh 2016/17 (attached)