

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**24 MARCH 2015**

### **ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J RUFF TO COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS**

Can the portfolio holder please explain the procedure for residents enquiring about adaptations and the information that is given to residents when coming into the council or ringing?

Is it correct that the council are deliberately avoiding adaptations to certain properties and if so why?

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS**

All applications by tenants to have their homes adapted to meet their individual or household medical needs are assessed by the County Council's Occupational Therapy Team.

Tenants have to apply to be assessed directly to the County Council, but if they approach the Council (NWLDC) in the first instance, they are signposted accordingly.

Once an application has been submitted to the County, an Occupational Therapist will undertake a home visit and assess the current and future needs of the tenant and/or their household, and where applicable make a recommendation for an adaptation to the Council (NWLDC).

These referrals are given an urgent or routine priority by the OT based on the medical merits of each case.

Upon receipt by the Council's Planned Investment Team each referral is then assessed from a housing perspective, within the Council's policy that was most recently revised and approved by Cabinet on 18 November 2014.

On occasion referrals/applications may not be progressed, with an alternative solution put forward to the applicant. Where this applies, it will usually be for one of three reasons:

- because we already have suitably adapted properties within our housing stock that meet the applicants needs and the cost of adapting another similar property cannot be justified; or because the tenants housing need is not appropriate for the property they are currently occupying e.g. an elderly single occupant of a three bedroom house;
- because the adaptation requested is not appropriate e.g. a level access shower to a first floor flat (in such a situation, this implies a stairlift will also be required at some point, and the most appropriate solution to meet the applicant's needs would be for them to move to an existing adapted, ground floor property);
- because the request was cancelled by Social Services due to, bereavement, going into residential care etc;

During the current financial year we have received 164 referrals by the County Council's OT Service of which 126 have been approved for adaptation works and 38 have not been progressed.

Of the 38 referrals that have not been progressed, the breakdown based on the three reasons highlighted above is 22, 5 and 11 respectively.