

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 8 April 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Adults & Community

**SUBJECT:** Scrutiny Review of Adaptations for Disabled People

**WARD(S)** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the draft report of the Scrutiny Review of Adaptations for Disabled People and resultant revised Policy for consideration by the Board.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- (1) the Board comment on the findings of the Scrutiny Review (attached at Appendix 1);**
- (2) the Board endorse the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations; and**
- (3) the Board endorse the Housing Adaptations Policy and the Procedures and Practice Guidance for Major and Minor Adaptations (attached at Appendices 2, 3 & 4).**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 This report (attached as Appendix 1) was commissioned by the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board. A scrutiny review working group was established with four Members from the Board, an officer from the finance team and officers from the Halton Home Improvement and Independent Living Service (HHIILS).

3.2 The report was commissioned as historically a high level of complaints had been received regarding the waiting time for adaptations for service-users, the costs/financial output was identified as very high and the importance of adaptations in the independence of disabled people staying longer in their own homes was highlighted.

3.3 The scrutiny review was conducted through a number of means between April 2009 and January 2010, as follows:

- Bi-monthly meetings of the scrutiny review topic group;

- Presentations by various key members of staff (detail of the presentations can be found in *Annex 2*);
- Regular financial activity updates regarding each aspect of the Disabled Facilities Grant at each meeting from the Budget Monitoring Officer;
- Provision of information;
- Service-user consultation;
- Field visit to a modular building; and
- Meeting with members of the HHILS team.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 During the period of the scrutiny review being undertaken, the policies and procedures in relation to adaptations were being reviewed. These policies and procedures are endorsed by the report, in particular the newly revised Adaptations Policy and the Procedures and Practice Guidance for major and minor adaptations. These documents have been developed in conjunction with staff and service users in order to establish a consistent policy framework and procedures and practice guidance.

4.2 The Adaptations Policy has been developed to ensure a fair and consistent response when considering the provision of adaptations to a person's home and to assist Occupational Therapists, Community Care Workers and technical staff in recommending adaptations that are necessary, appropriate, reasonable, practical and cost effective.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These are some financial implications, including training for staff within the Contact Centre and future IT systems which will need to be considered in the context of the Council's IT Strategy.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The provision of adaptations for children promotes a healthy living environment, sustain individual good health and well-being and help prevent and efficiently manage illness.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The provision of adaptations for disabled people promotes a healthy living environment, sustain individual good health and well-being and help prevent and efficiently manage illness.

#### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Providing disabled people with suitable adapted housing gives them the opportunity to stay living in the area they want, to continue enjoying their lives. All major adaptations are developed to high standards in keeping with the local environment.

#### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

In line with "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods – A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society" by the Communities for Local Government, the recommendations within this scrutiny review report have a huge role to play in helping people live independently for longer in their own homes.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Taking on board the recommendations from the report will be positive steps to improving the efficient and effective running of the HHILS team and providing an improved service to the residents of Halton to help them live independently in their own homes.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The implementation of the recommendations will improve the independence of older people and disabled people within Halton. A Community Impact Assessment has been completed and is available for scrutiny upon request to the Strategic Director, Adults & Community.

#### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**None.**