

## **Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**

**26 February, 2018 at 6.00 pm  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Dhallu (Chair);  
Councillors Allen, P. Davies and Melia

**Apologies:** Councillor S Crumpton and S Hosell.

**In attendance:** Mr S (Appellant);  
Mr S (Appellants Son);  
Andrew Langford (Housing Service Manager);  
Stuart Hall (Senior Urban Renewal Officer);  
Annette Hall (Occupational Therapist).

1/18

### **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2017, were confirmed as a correct record, with the addition that apologies were received from Councillor Allen.

### **Matter delegated to the Committee**

2/18

### **Appeal against the decision of the Adaptations Panel**

The Committee considered an appeal by Mr S, against the decision of the Disabled Facilities Grant Adaptations Panel.

The appeal was on the grounds that Mr S had been assessed as needing a step lift to allow him access to his home, a vertical lift to allow him access the first floor of his home and a level access shower facility.

An offer to rehouse Mr S to a suitably sized, level access property had been made. Mr S declined the offer on the basis that he preferred to stay in the home that he had lived in for many years.

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Subsequently, Mr S had requested a reduced scheme of adaptations, which consisted of the bathroom adaptations only. This request was rejected by the Disabled Facilities Grant Adaptations Panel following advice from the Occupational Therapist that adapting the bathroom alone would not meet the needs of Mr S.

In reaching its decision, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director – Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and the appellant's written and verbal submissions.

The Committee further considered the cost implication of the adaptation, and that it would exceed the Disabled Facilities Grant limit of £25,000 and that it was neither reasonable nor practicable to make the adaptation.

**Resolved**

- (1) that the decision of the Disabled Facilities Grant Adaptations Panel, to not award Mr S a Disabled Facilities Grant under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, to provide a step lift to allow him access to his home, a vertical lift to allow him access the first floor of his home and a level access shower facility, be upheld;
- (2) that the Housing Service Manager be requested to liaise closely with Mr S to ensure a more suitable property is found to meet his needs in a timely manner.

(Meeting ended at 7.05pm)

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