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# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Disabled tenants in Wealden continue to benefit from policy**

Disabled tenants living in Wealden District Council properties will benefit from an updated policy should they require aids and adaptations within their homes.

The Aids and Adaptations Policy for council housing tenants has been approved by the council’s decision making Cabinet committee this week.

It ensures that tenants with disabilities have access to good quality housing that meets their needs to ensure they can continue to live comfortably, safely and independently in their homes.

In the last five years the council has delivered 219 major adaptations and 701 minor adaptations for the benefit of tenants at a total cost of £1.4 million. That equates to 40 major and 140 minor adaptions each year to the council’s housing stock.

The updated policy – which applies to tenants and their families living in Wealden District Council properties that require aids and adaptations within their homes – reflects the authority’s commitment as a landlord to provide essential adaptations to give tenants, or their family members, better freedom of movement into and around their home and to access essential facilities within it.

The type of adaptation work can range from minor adaptations such as the installation of grab rails, handrails, lighting and small ramps to major adaptations including the installation of stair-lifts, through floor lifts, level access showers, kitchen alterations and external ramps.

The cost of all adaptation work is funded from the council’s Housing Revenue Account for capital works. All adaptation works are completed by one of the Housing Services’ partnering contractors.

Councillor Ray Cade, the portfolio holder for housing and benefits, said, “The adoption of this policy will ensure that our tenants with disabilities have access to good quality housing that meets their needs to ensure that they can continue to live comfortably, safely and independently in their homes.

“This provision is vital to support the wellbeing and independence of our disabled tenants, either in the continued occupancy of their own home of in another property that is suitably adapted or can be adapted to meet their needs.

“This policy also aims to ensure consistency, clarity and fairness in our approach when dealing with requests for aids and adaptations in our homes.”

**For further information:**

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