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**Neath Port Talbot**

**Reintroduction of Means Test for small and medium sized works.**

Consultation Paper

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1. **Introduction**

In August 2022 on request of the Welsh Government, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council removed the requirement for people to undertake a Means Test for small and medium sized Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

DFGs are grants of up to £36,000 to support home adaptations that a person has been assessed as needing by on Occupational Therapist. Examples of the types of works provided through this Grant are shower conversions, Stairlifts, small ramps and rails.

Since the removal of the Means Test, the demand for DFGs has increased and has resulted in a long waiting list. This means that people who cannot afford to pay for works themselves have to wait a very long time to get the adaptations they need.

This is why we are considering re-introducing the Means Test so that DFGs for small and medium sized works are only provided to those people who cannot afford to pay for the works themselves.

1. **What are the aims of this consultation?**

The aims of the consultation are to:

* Make sure that people are aware of the proposal.
* Provide clear information on what the proposal is about and reasons for doing it.
* Make sure that people have all the information they need to come to an informed opinion about the proposal.
* Encourage people to give their views on the proposal.
* Make sure people know how to submit their views about the proposal.
* Collect feedback and ensure this informs our final proposal.
1. **When will the consultation take place?**

The Council will be collecting feedback for 6 weeks from 11th November to 22nd December 2024 (see section 6 for how to give your views).

After the consultation ends, all of the feedback will be analysed and a report will be presented to the Council’s Cabinet. An updated Proposal will also be presented to the Councils Cabinet, which will be shaped by the feedback we get from this consultation.

1. **What is the proposal about?**

The proposal sets out the intent to re-introduce the Means Test for small and medium sized grants to ensure the available DFG budget is spent in the best way and helps those most in need.

It will help to manage the demand, reduce waiting times, and ensure those who cannot afford to fund their own adaptations can be seen as soon as possible.

If the Means Test is not reintroduced and the level of demand remains as it is, it is likely the waiting times for people to get a Grant will soon be a minimum of 2 years.

1. **How will the Council collect views and opinions?**

There are a number of ways that the Council will be collecting views and opinions on the proposal:

* **Consultation Portal**

Information will be placed on the Councils consultation portal which will allow you to comment and provide feedback

* **In writing**

You can write to us or complete the Feedback Form at the end of this booklet. Letters and forms can be posted to:

Housing Adaptation Means Test consultation

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Housing Renewal and Adaptation Service

Civic Centre

Neath SA11 3QZ

Or email HRAS@npt.gov.uk

**Alternative Formats**

We can make this information available in a range of different formats including a Welsh language version and, on request, in other languages, large print, Braille or audio tape/CD. To make a request for another format, please contact the HRAS at HRAS@npt.gov.uk or the address below.

Housing Adaptation Means Test consultation.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Housing Renewal and Adaptation Service

Civic Centre

Neath SA11 3QZ

**6. Feedback form**

|  |
| --- |
| Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**Reintroduction of the Means Test for small and medium sized grants****Feedback Form**If you would like to comment on the proposal, please complete this form and post it in the questionnaire box or post it to:Housing Adaptation Means Test consultationNeath Port Talbot County Borough CouncilHousing Renewal and Adaptation ServiceCivic CentreNeathSA11 3QZ |
| If you wish to receive a response to any questions raised on this form please supply your name and address: |
| Name: |  |
| Address: |  |
|  |  | Postcode: |  |
|  |
| **Question 1**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal?Please tick ☑ one box only:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Strongly agree** | **Tend to****agree** | **Neither****agree or****disagree** | **Tend to****disagree** | **Strongly****disagree** | **Don’t know** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

We would welcome your comments on the reasons for your answer,suggestions about improvements or other ideas in the box below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 2**Do you think that the proposal will help us to make sure people most in need of a Grant will be able to obtain one more quickly?Pleasetick ☑ one box only.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** | **No** | **Partly** | **Don’t know** |
|  |  |  |  |
| We would welcome your comments on the reasons for your answer,suggestions about improvements or other ideas in the box below: |
|  |
|  |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 3** Is there anything that you feel is missing from the proposal that we need to include or think about? If so we would welcome your comments in the box below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 4**How do you feel this proposal will affect those that will now be Means Tested and may not qualify for a grant on a financial basis? We would welcome your comments in the box below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 5**How do you feel this proposal will affect those that would still qualify for a grant if we re-instate the Means Test ?We would welcome your comments in the box below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 6**Do you have any more comments about the proposal or the things that the proposal is aiming to achieve that you would like to share? If so we would welcome your comments in the box below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 |

**Question 7**

Do you think that the Plan will have a positive or negative impact on the Welsh language?

Pleasetick ☑ one box only.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** | **Negative** | **Don’t know** |
|  |  |  |
| We would welcome your comments on the reasons for your answer, orsuggestions about improvements in the box below: |
|  |

**Question 8**

Do you think that the Plan will have a positive or negative impact on any protected equalities characteristics?

Pleasetick ☑ one box only.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** | **Negative** | **Don’t know** |
|  |  |  |
| We would welcome your comments on the reasons for your answer, orsuggestions about improvements in the box below: |
|  |

**About You**

The Council operates equality policies that aim to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally. To make sure that people are not discriminated against when accessing our services we carry out monitoring and therefore would be grateful if you could answer the following questions. The information you provide is strictly confidential.

**Age:** *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Under 16 |  | 30-39 |  | 60-74 |  | 86+ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 16-24 |  | 40-49 |  | 75-85 |  | Prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 25-29 |  | 50-59 |  |  |  |  |

**Welsh Language** – are you: *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Fluent speaker & writer |  | Fluent speaker |  | Learner |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Fairly fluent speaker & writer |  | Fairly fluent speaker |  | Little or no knowledge |

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?** *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes |  | No |  | Prefer not to say |

**Ethnic origin:** *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | White British |  | Mixed: White & Asian |  | Black: African |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | White Irish |  | Indian |  | Black: Caribbean |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mixed: White & Black Caribbean |  | Bangladeshi |  | Chinese |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mixed: White & Black African |  | Pakistani |  | Prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Other *(please specify):* |  |

**Sex** *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Male |  | Female |  | Transgender |  | Prefer not to say |

**Religion/Belief**: *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Christian |  | Buddhist |  | Hindu |  | Jewish |  | Muslim |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sikh |  | No religion |  | Prefer not to say |  | Any other religion |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Any other religion *(please specify):* |  |

**Sexual Orientation** *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Heterosexual |  | Lesbian |  | Gay |  | Bisexual |  | Prefer not to say |

**Nationality** *(please* ***🗸*** *one answer)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Welsh |  | Scottish |  | English |  | British |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Irish |  | Prefer not to say |  | Other |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Other *(please specify):* |  |

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME***