



## **Home Improvement Agency**

### **FACTSHEET**

#### **RAMPED ACCESS – Owner Occupier**

Your Occupational Therapist has recommended we install a ramp at your property.

A Caseworker will visit you to complete an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant which will fund the cost of the adaptation.

If you receive certain qualifying benefits a grant will fund the work. If you do not receive these benefits you will need to complete a means test which is based on the money you (and your partner) receive each week as well as any savings or investments. We will let you know if you need to make a contribution and you will be asked whether you want to proceed.

Most people are happy for the Local Authority to manage the whole process for them. However, you may prefer to appoint a Private Agent to do this instead. Your Caseworker can give you more information. Please be aware that additional charges may apply if you choose to appoint a Private Agent.

Once we have received a price for the work from the contractor we will make arrangements for the grant to be approved. When the grant is approved the contractor will call you to arrange a start date. We will call you to inspect the work after it is finished.

If any problems occur during the first year after the work has been completed, you will need to contact the contractor who will carry out the repair.

There are conditions to this grant:

1. The disabled person must intend to live in the property for 5 years.

2. If your home is disposed of by sale, assignment, transfer or otherwise within 10 years of completion of the adaptation, the Council will ask you to pay back anything over the first £5,000 of the grant (to a maximum of £10,000). The repayment condition can be waived in certain specific circumstances and the Council must take into account:
- the financial hardship it would cause;
  - whether the disposal is due to an employment related relocation;
  - whether the disposal is connected with the physical or mental health or well-being of the grant recipient or of a disabled occupant of the premises: and
  - whether the disposal will enable the recipient of the grant to provide care to a disabled person.

### **What we will do:**

- Arrange for Planning Permission
- Provide a ramp at a maximum gradient of 1:12 or 1:15
- Provide bar faced slabs to ramp and platform
- Provide slab-on-edge retaining wall to ramp if the fall is less than 300mm
- Provide a 215mm retaining wall finished with blue double bull nosed brick-on-edge where the fall is greater than 300mm
- Provide aco channel drainage to door thresholds and ramp where area exceeds 5m<sup>2</sup> including a soakaway
- We will provide 48mm galvanised steel tubular handrail and mid-rail with up stands to open aspects for ramp

For more information about this adaptation, please contact Sandwell Enquiry on 0121 569 2266 or [HomeImprovement\\_Agency@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:HomeImprovement_Agency@sandwell.gov.uk)

