

Home Improvement Agency Assistance Policy Briefing

The Home Improvement Agency (HIA) at Runnymede Borough Council has updated the Home Improvement Agency Assistance Policy.

The Home Improvement Agency Assistance Policy outlines grants and support available for residents who are disabled, elderly or vulnerable. These are available to residents of all tenures including home owners, private renters, housing association and social housing tenants.

The Policy outlines the grants available and the criteria to qualify for each. It was updated to follow guidance set out in the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order (RRO). The policy includes the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), as well as a selection of discretionary grants.

To be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG):

- The applicant must either be a home-owner or tenant, including private tenants, local authority and social housing tenants
- The applicant or beneficiary of the adaptation must be registered disabled or eligible to be registered
- A written recommendation from an Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor, that adaptation works are necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the client

Residents can receive a grant of up to £30,000 towards adaptations for their home. Common adaptations include wet rooms, ramps and stairlifts.

Discretionary grants include:

- Minor works assistance
- Clearance grant
- Energy efficiency grant
- Relocation grant
- Home from hospital grant
- Dementia living grant

The discretionary grants have varying eligibility criteria. To find out more visit the Runnymede Council Website or contact the Home Improvement Agency Team.

The policy can be found on the Runnymede Council Website ([Runnymede Home Improvement Agency – Runnymede Borough Council](#)). You can also contact the Home Improvement Agency Team for a copy.

We are currently out for consultation on the Policy. This is part of the process when we implement a new policy. All the grants are available to residents now.

To apply for a grant or find out if you are eligible contact the Home Improvement Agency, or visit the Runnymede Borough Council website.

What impact has the RRO had on the Policy?

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order (RRO) allows local authorities to offer more grants, in addition to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

The Home Improvement Agency Assistance Policy provides information on the selection of discretionary grants that Runnymede residents have access to.

Discretionary grants include:

- Minor works assistance
- Clearance grant
- Energy efficiency grant
- Relocation grant
- Home from hospital grant
- Dementia living grant

The table below provides information on the eligibility criteria.

Financial assistance type	Max. amount	Basic eligibility criteria (further detail found in the policy)
Minor works assistance	£5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No more than £6,000 (plus VAT and/or Fees) can be payable in regard to the property within a 3 year period.• Applicants must be over 60, disabled or otherwise vulnerable• Applicants must have lived in the property for a minimum of 2 years prior to the application.• Applicants with savings of more than £23,250 will not be eligible.

Financial assistance type	Max. amount	Basic eligibility criteria (further detail found in the policy)
Minor works – clearance grant	£1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents will be assessed to check they do not have more than £23,500 in savings • Grant is a one off payment, and cannot be applied for multiple times • Payment can be made to the caseworker or cleaning company direct • Referral must come from Environmental Health and/or Adult Social Care • Referral must include the reason why the funding cannot come from Adult Social Care • Resident must have a dedicated caseworker from Environmental Health and/or Adult Social Care who will coordinate the approach • Approach will be coordinated by the referrer (EV or ASC) • Specialised hoarding company must be used for the de-cluttering • On-going support should be put in place to support any relapses e.g. CBT, group therapy, peer support • Fire service involved if needed
Energy Efficiency Scheme	£2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than £6,000 (plus VAT and/or Fees) can be payable in regard to the property within a 3 year period • Applicants must be over 60, disabled or otherwise vulnerable • Applicants must have lived in the property for a minimum of 2 years prior to the application • Applicants with savings of more than £23,250 will not be eligible • Applicants must be in receipt of, or eligible for, a means tested benefit; or be proven not to be able to afford the works. If the applicant has sufficient capital, they will be expected to use their own resources and not apply for a grant. However, assistance can be provided with organising the works for a fee.
Relocation grant	£10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be either an owner-occupier or tenant. This includes tenants in both private and council owned properties. • The relevant person must be a disabled person within the household, registered or eligible to be registered with Adult Social Care.
Dementia Living Package	£3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the works aren't covered under a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), such as adapting or making a home safe to allow a hospital discharge • for getting adaptation works done quickly for a terminally ill patient • for repairing adaptations that are already in the property. • To qualify for DAA the client must have an occupational therapy assessment or a referral from a health professional • Savings of less than £23,250
Home from hospital package	£7500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) isn't enough to pay for the works needed • where the works aren't covered under a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), such as adapting or making a home safe to allow a hospital discharge • for getting adaptation works done quickly for a terminally ill patient • for repairing adaptations that are already in the property.

Financial assistance type	Max. amount	Basic eligibility criteria (further detail found in the policy)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an occupational therapy assessment or a referral from a health professional and savings of less than £23,250