**Excerpt --Matters arising and actions from Whaikaha Officials Meeting with Minister for Disability Issues – 28 February 2024**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item** | Changes to EMS and flexible funding to manage Whaikaha expenditure. Paper attached - Briefing REP-WHK-24-02-018 |
| **Matters arising and action** | **EMS** * The two providers (Accessable and Enable New Zealand) will need to implement demand management measures to stay within their 2023/2024 budget, noting this action will not reduce the forecast deficit in the Vote but will prevent the deficit becoming greater.
* Whaikaha to work with EMS providers to implement prioritisation and to develop clear communications.

**Flexible Funding** * Immediate action is required to manage sensitive expenditure within flexible funding allocations, particularly in light of the need to prioritise equipment and modification services.
* The flexibility implemented during COVID for sound reasons is now creating stress on the Vote.
* Immediately pause “sensitive expenditure” (as listed in paragraph 21 of the paper)
* A key principle to be implemented is that funding must provide direct benefit for the disabled person, not for family/whanau.
* Minister asked Whaikaha to develop advice on limiting the proportion of “individualised funding” budgets that are deemed “flexible”.
* This advice should cover different options for the proportion of flexible funding allocations that should remain flexible, such as a percentage or actual $ value.

**Actions*** Whaikaha to provide in “table form” the list of actions it is progressing to reduce expenditure, the projected dollar value of those actions where currently known, and the timing for progressing those actions, including dates for advice to the Minister.
* **To be provided by mid-day 7 March**
 |