

Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Discretionary Housing Payment			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities To assess the impact of proceeding with an updated Discretionary Housing Payment Policy</p> <p>Statutory drivers The Council is responsible for designing a suitable policy under which to assess the level of financial support required for Discretionary Housing Payments. The assessment is undertaken in accordance with the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations 2001 (regulation 4).</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach To formalise the disregard of any military compensation payments where they relate to the Discretionary Housing Payment and/or the Disabled Facilities Grant. This follows the 'Credit their Service' motion carried by Members at Full Council on 25.10.23 which sought to remove military compensation schemes from being considered as income when the Council assesses means tested benefits under its discretionary powers.</p> <p>To ensure that the disregard of any military compensation payments is aligned across all of the Council's benefit schemes. To update the policy to address minor amendments, language and inconsistencies in the policy wording and to reflect modified working practices that have been strengthened over recent years.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) Key stakeholders: the Council; Service Users</p> <p>Intended outcomes. To seek the adoption of a suitable updated policy to provide clear guidance on Discretionary Housing Payments.</p>			
Live date:	1 April 2024			
Lifespan:	Until Further Notice (review every 3 years)			
Date of next review:	1 April 2027			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	☒	☐	☐	No evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of human rights.
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*	☒	☐	☐	No evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of equality.
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	☒	☐	☐	No evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town.
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

Assessment completed by:	Debbie Ingoldsby	Head of Service:	Janette Savage
Date:	23.2.24	Date:	23.2.24

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.