

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE
INFORMATION SHEET (C-2017/18-001)
14 JUNE 2017**

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide a further update for members on Discretionary Housing Payments.

We were able to spend all of the 2016/17 funding of £117,588. The fund was also topped up with an extra £5,000 (new burdens funding) to see us through to the end of the financial year. Overall spend was £121,678.

Reasons for Awards

Claimants affected by the social sector size criteria (bedroom tax) and the Benefit CAP continue to be the highest reason for an award.

| Claim Numbers | Reason for Award | Amount Paid (£) |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 68 | Bedroom Tax | 24,070 |
| 48 | Benefit Cap | 60,877 |
| 25 | Income | 19,250 |
| 6 | Local Housing Allowance | 1,822 |
| 6 | Non-Dependants | 3,453 |
| 5 | Under 35 – Local Housing Allowance | 4,066 |
| 3 | Homeless Prevention | 2,605 |
| 3 | Dependant Children | 2,027 |
| 2 | Property Adapted | 1,018 |
| 1 | Rent In Advance | 255 |
| 1 | Family First | 426 |
| 1 | Removal Costs – UC | 286 |
| 1 | UC Housing Costs | 1,523 |

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Changes to the Rules

The regulations have been altered from 01 April 2017 which makes changes to the size criteria rules following a Supreme Court judgement in November 2016. The regulations now allow an extra bedroom

- Where a disabled child or disabled non-dependant adult requires, and has, overnight care from a non-resident carer (or group of carers)
- Where a couple are unable to share a bedroom because of their disabilities

The Supreme Court held that the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy size criteria unlawfully discriminates against disabled adults who are unable to share a bedroom because of their disabilities and disabled children who require a non-resident overnight carer.

An extra bedroom is already permitted under the size criteria where a severely disabled adult (a claimant or their partner) has a non-resident overnight carer and where a child is unable to share a bedroom due to their disabilities. The Court held that this difference in treatment between adults and children in the same circumstances could not be justified. The legislation has therefore been amended to replicate these rules to allow an extra bedroom when either a disabled child or disabled adult non-dependant requires overnight care from a non-resident carer, and to allow disabled adult couples an extra bedroom if they are unable to share. In addition, need to be in receipt of a specified disability benefit – middle to higher care component DLA, daily living component of PIP, higher rate AA or the Armed Forces Independence Payment.

Funding for 2017/18

Nationally, the overall DHP funding for 2017/18 will be £185 million, an increase of £35 million (23%) compared with 2016/17. Our funding for 2017/18 is £153,989 and spend to date is £32,822.

The funding comprises four separate areas of support; Core funding, Local Housing Allowance (LHA), Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy (RSRS) and benefit cap.

Link to Policy

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/housing-benefit-and-council-tax-support/housing-benefit/discretionary-housing-payment-dhp>

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