

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

**DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES
AND ASSET MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND
TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME WITH ADVICE FROM THE SECTION
151 OFFICER**



DECISION NO: CSD 109

KEY DECISION*: No

SUBJECT:

2017 2018 CSD 109 - Welfare Provision Scheme 2018/19 amendments

BACKGROUND:

To amend the current Welfare Provision Policy to take into account minor changes. The Policy has a review mechanism in place as agreed in previous Impact Assessments to ensure the scheme remains accessible to all customers who find themselves in a position of financial need.

The Welfare Provision Scheme helps low income/ no income households with crisis and community care grants based on individual needs. There is certain qualifying conditions and is mainly aimed at groups that re settling into the area and require start up packs/ goods for their homes.

The scheme was financed by a Government Grant in 2013 for an initial 2 years.

DECISION:

To reduce the number of applications per household and make minor adjustments.

Reasons:

The budget is reducing and to be able to provide help under the scheme we need to make the following changes

- Reduce awards from two to one in any rolling year.
- Award only if in receipt of a qualifying welfare benefit and it is in payment
- Not able to secure funding from any other source
- Redirect Rent in Advance to the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund
- Include Veterans supported through the Armed Forces Covenant

Other Alternatives Considered: n/a

Financial Implications:


- The decision is within the relevant budget of the Directorate (including phased capital budget) and the relevant revenue & capital budget, and the Directorate's overall budget is not projecting an overspend.

Implications for Future Years:

As the budget reduces the council will need to ensure the applications and policy are adjusted to meet all needs of those affected by the policy. The provision of the scheme is not funded by a separate grant and is therefore not ring-fenced.

Signed: 
Malcolm Coe
Section 151 Officer and Head of Finance & Property, North Somerset Council

Dated: 02/01/2018

Signed : 
Cllr David Pasley
Executive Member for Human Resources and Asset Management,
Capital Programme and Transformation Programme

Dated: 02/01/2018