

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**



DECISION OF SECTION 151 OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL,
CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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 resettling 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.

IMPORTANT - Additional Note

This decision has been the subject of a call in to the Children and Young People's Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 23rd January 2018, when the Executive Member was invited to reconsider the matter in light of the information and specific issues discussed by the Panel.

Having undertaken that review, the Executive Member has concluded that the decision is not implemented.

Taking account of the matters raised by the Panel, it is proposed to defer the decision to allow consideration for a redesign of the scheme, and a new decision will be presented later in the year.

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

Dated: 