Written response to a question on minute 66: Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Policy

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| ***Subject*** | ***Question*** | ***Suggested response by the Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities*** |
| Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Policy (on Cabinet minutes item) | Cllr Smowton - how many families have had the DHP payment reduced or withdrawn and who decides on the criteria? | We do not tend to reduce DHP awards as when we have historically tried this in the past we have found it creates more difficulty for customers to find long term solutions.  In terms of refusing applications or re-applications, since 1st April 2021 we have refused 100 applications, a table with a breakdown of the reasons for this is below.    **Reason for refusal**  Doesn't meet DHP policy criteria                          26  No rent shortfall                                        26  Means tested shortfall only                        6  Failed to supply requested information   12  Income exceeds                                         5  Ineligible rent costs                                    1  Can now afford shortfall                             6  DHP would not sustain tenancy                  4  No long term plan to reduce DHP reliance  2  Didn't satisfy conditions of previous award 0  Unwilling to accept conditions of award    4  No HB entitlement                                      1  No longer affected by welfare reform       2  Support offered but without DHP                 4  No UC in payment                                     1    Any decision where we decide not to award is made by the Welfare Reform Project Officers in line with the agreed Council policy, legislation and best practice.  Our refusal rate is currently 28% which is higher than recent years but reflects the significant DHP grant cut from Government. |
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