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Payment (DHP) Policy (on Cabinet minutes item) | Cllr Smowton - how many families have had the DHP payment reduced or withdrawn and who decides on the criteria?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                          26No rent shortfall                                        26Means tested shortfall only                        6Failed to supply requested information   12Income exceeds                                         5Ineligible rent costs                                    1Can now afford shortfall                             6DHP would not sustain tenancy                  4No long term plan to reduce DHP reliance  2Didn't satisfy conditions of previous award 0Unwilling to accept conditions of award    4No HB entitlement                                      1No longer affected by welfare reform       2Support offered but without DHP                 4No 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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