

Supplement for

Council

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On **Monday 29 November 2021** At **5.15 pm**

Minutes supplement for item 73: written response to question on Cabinet minutes

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Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX

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

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Payment (DHP) Policy (on Cabinet minutes item)	Cllr Smowton - how many families have had the DHP payment reduced or withdrawn and who decides on the criteria?	<p>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.</p> <p>Reason for refusal</p> <table data-bbox="798 645 1406 1137"> <tr><td>Doesn't meet DHP policy criteria</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>No rent shortfall</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Means tested shortfall only</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Failed to supply requested information</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Income exceeds</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Ineligible rent costs</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Can now afford shortfall</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>DHP would not sustain tenancy</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>No long term plan to reduce DHP reliance</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Didn't satisfy conditions of previous award</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Unwilling to accept conditions of award</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>No HB entitlement</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>No longer affected by welfare reform</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Support offered but without DHP</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>No UC in payment</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p>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.</p>	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
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