



Derby City Council

Welfare Strategy for Derby and the Single Discretionary Award Policy

Background

Over the past five years there have been reductions in local and national government funding. Derby City Council has had a 40% reduction in its total funding from Government, including a 27% reduction in the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) grant in the last two years, and the city has seen a reduction in the number of JobcentrePlus (JCP) offices and JCP advisors.

In the Government's Emergency Budget July 2015 changes to the thresholds for Benefits' Caps and reductions in welfare expenditure were announced as well as an earlier rollout of the new Universal Credit system and a commitment to helping people back into work.

The Council are proposing a Welfare Strategy for Derby in response to the Government's Welfare Reform Programme. This will make sure the Council offer the right support to individuals to meet their needs, as well as helping them to move towards work and independence.

The Council are also proposing a new Single Discretionary Award policy that will replace the three current awards; Discretionary Hardship Payment Policy, Council Tax Hardship Policy and Local Assistance Policy. This will help to support the implementation of the Welfare Strategy and to move towards:

- A Single Discretionary Policy covering the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), Local Assistance Scheme (LAS) and the Council Tax Hardship scheme (CTH). This will be done through one online application, with a single needs assessment
- An programme of support tailored for the individual to help people move closer to and eventually into work where possible
- Provide a more co-ordinated approach to advice, education and support to provide a packaged approach to those most in need
- Develop a support service that helps residents with money management and budgeting, and getting on line to help prepare them for Universal Credit.
- Promote a support service that brings together local and national schemes to offer customers practical and financial
- Look for other sources of funding to provide support over a longer period of time
- Make sure that the limited money we have from the government is used

in the best way possible by protecting those most at risk.

You can give your views on our proposed Welfare Strategy for Derby and Single Discretionary Award policy using this questionnaire or online at XXXX.

Your views are important to us. Please complete all of the questions you are comfortable answering. All of the information you provide will be treated in confidence. Please return your completed questionnaire by **16 May 2016** using the pre-paid envelope provided; you don't need a stamp.

If you need this information in another format or if you have any questions about this consultation, please email XXXXX or phone XXXXX.



All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will use the results of this consultation to help shape the Welfare Strategy and Discretionary Payments Policy.

This feedback form does not ask for personal contact details, if these are given by participants, we will only pass personal details to other Council departments or other Public Service organisations with your explicit consent. It may also be shared for the purposes of preventing fraud, misuse of public funds and any legal or statutory requirement such as Safeguarding children and adults.

The Proposed Changes

Please note – in this section where we refer to discretionary award we are referring to; Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), Local Assistance Scheme (LAS) and the Council Tax Hardship scheme (CTH).

Where we refer to support we are referring to money advice; budgeting support; access to banking products; access to digital skills support; better off calculations; access to job clubs and training and housing advice.

Single Assessment

The current process for applying for all three discretionary awards is through three separate online application forms. It is proposed to move to one single application that will assess the needs of the applicant for all three discretionary awards as well as identifying any additional support that the Council can offer directly or through a partner organisation. The need to apply online will not change, just the structure of the application. We will not change the assessment criteria for the awards, only that an applicant will be assessed for all three awards at the same time.

As part of the assessment, we will assess any other additional support that is appropriate. The additional support could comprise of: money advice; budgeting support; access to banking products; access to digital skills support; better off calculations; access to job clubs and training and housing advice.

How will this affect me?

There will no longer be the need to complete three different applications for discretionary awards. It will be much simpler through one online application, the Single Discretionary Award. We will then assess applicants for any appropriate discretionary payments and additional support.

Q1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to combine the application process for all discretionary payments into one Single Discretionary Award application? Please select one option.

Agree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Disagree

Don't know

Q2. If you have any comments on the proposal to combine the application process for all discretionary payments into one Single Discretionary Award application, please tell us below.

Offer of support

We will provide additional support based on the needs of applicants. The applicant's support needs will be assessed based on the answers they provide to questions asked as part of the application process. The additional support could comprise of: money advice; budgeting support; access to banking products; access to digital skills support; better off calculations; access to job clubs and training and housing advice.

How will this affect me?

Dependent on your requirements, we will look to provide additional support packages to help best meet your needs.

Q3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide additional support packages to meet the needs of individuals who apply through the Single Discretionary Award application? Please select one option.

- Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Don't know

Q4. If you have any comments on the proposal to provide additional support packages to meet the needs of individuals who apply through the Single Discretionary Award application, please tell us below.

Broader Data Sharing

Each individual application currently has its own data sharing statement. This is part of our duties to applicants under the Data Protection Act 1998. To improve the service provided, we are proposing to introduce broader data sharing, this will improve the support services that we can offer to customers. The wider data sharing will mean we can make referrals to voluntary sector partners who can offer additional services to customers who need support to move on. Currently we only share data if this was as part of our Local Assistance Scheme however we do not currently share information in this way for Discretionary Housing Payments and Council Tax Hardship Scheme.

All teams and agencies that we may share information with will be listed in detail as part of the application process.

How will this affect me?

We will, where you give permission share information with other partners who can offer you additional services. This will benefit you as it will be support that will help you and enhance your life and help you move forward.

Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to share information with other partners so they can offer applicants additional services? Please select one option.

- Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Don't know

Q6. If you have any comments on the proposal to share information with other partners so they can offer applicants additional services, please tell us below.

Conditions of support engagement and award

When applying for a Single Discretionary Award, customers additional support needs will be assessed. Where support needs are identified the Council will arrange for these support needs to be met by partner organisations or other Council teams.

If a customer takes up the offer of additional support, on-going or further payments of discretionary awards or issuing of goods will be dependent upon the engagement with support services. Decisions on support engagement will be made on a case by case basis and customer's individual barriers and challenges will be taken into consideration when making any decision regarding further payment of awards or issuing of goods.

This will only be for those customers that do not fall in to a protected group (detailed in the priority group section).

How will this affect me?

If you are provided with additional support and do not engage with these services, this may affect any future awards you apply for.

Q7. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to apply a requirement to engage with additional services in order to qualify for further awards? Please select one

option only.

Agree
er agree

Neith
nor disagree

Disagree
know

Don't

Q8. If you have any comments on the proposal to apply a condition of engaging with additional services in order to qualify for further awards, please tell us below.

PriorityGroups

Each application is treated on its own merits, although customers in particular circumstances who have had their Housing Benefit restricted because of the number of spare bedrooms may have been given priority. This is because it would not be reasonable to expect them to move from their homes into smaller accommodation.

The Groups treated as a priority for Discretionary Hardship Payments will change. At present the following groups are treated as priority are:

- foster carers
- households where substantial disabled adaptations have been undertaken to meet the disability needs of a household member
- households with a child who is unable to share a bedroom due to disability and where any of the following applies:
 - they are not entitled to the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component at the middle or highest rate
 - the household is waiting for a DLA claim to be assessed
 - the child has a disability that may be particularly disruptive.
- Those affected by more than one welfare reform

How will this affect me?

Under the new policy, those affected by more than one welfare reform will be moved out of the priority group category so that we can work with them by offering the additional support. Applications can be made for a Single Discretionary Award; if successful you may receive a six month award, potentially followed by a further three month award. Further awards may be subject to you engaging with the appropriate, identified support services. All other groups will remain in the priority group category.

(A) Removing those people affected by more than one welfare reform from the priority group category and offering them additional support.

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with removing people who are affected by more than one welfare reform from the priority group category so that we can offer them additional support? Please select one option only.

- Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Don't know

Q10. If you have any comments on the proposed changes to the priority groups, please tell us below.

(B) Reduction to the number of months a Discretionary Housing Payment will be paid to those people affected by more than one welfare reform, successful applicants may receive a six month award, potentially followed by a second three month award.

Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed reduction to the length of any **second** award for those who no longer fall in to the priority group category from 6 months to 3 months? Please select one option only.

- Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Don't know

Q12. If you have any comments on the proposal to reduce the length of any second award for those who no longer fall in to the priority category from 6 months to 3 months, please tell us below.

This information will help us to understand how representative the response we receive is of people living in Derby as well as the views of different groups of people. Please answer all the questions you are comfortable responding to.

13. What was your age on your last birthday? Please give your age in years.

14. Are you... Please select one option only.

Male Female

15. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person? Please select one option only.

Yes No

16. To which group do you consider you belong? Please select one option only.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian orAsian British - | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dual Heritage - White and Black African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Indian Asian orAsian British | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dual Heritage - White andAsian Any other Dual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | - Pakistani Asian orAsian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Heritage background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | British - Bangladeshi Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> | White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | orAsian British - Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> | White - Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any otherAsian background | <input type="checkbox"/> | White - Gypsy or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Black or Black British - | <input type="checkbox"/> | IrishTraveller Any other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | African Black or Black | <input type="checkbox"/> | White background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | British - Caribbean Any other Black background | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other ethnic group - Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dual Heritage - White and Black Caribbean | | Any other ethnic group |

If you have selected one of the 'Any other background' options, please give further details.

Thank you for completing this feedback form.

Please return your completed feedback form in the pre-paid envelope provided, you don't need a stamp. You can also return your completed form to us using your own envelope addressed to:

Welfare
Strategy
for Derby
DerbyCity
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We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 0333 200 6900 Minicom: 01332 640666.

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.

Prosimy o kontakt: 0333 200 6900 Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 0333 200 6900 ਮਿਨੀਕਮ 01332 640666 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم 0333 200 6900 پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔
منی کام 01332 640666 پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔