

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10am, Tuesday 6 August 2013

Welfare Reform Update - Supplementary Information

This is an update following the recent announcements by the DWP notifying Local Authorities across the UK of additional funding. City of Edinburgh's allocation is detailed below:

DWP Circular S6/2013

Revised Discretionary Housing Payments allocation figures due to DWP departmental error for LA

Former Allocation	£1,347,299
New Allocation	£1,430,709
Increased Allocation	£ 83,410

DWP Circular S5/2013

Transitional funding of £10m for 2013 to be allocated to LAs through a formula based on anticipated losses between pre and post reform levels of HB in social rented sector.

City of Edinburgh's allocation is **£109,594**. This will be paid during August 2013.

Intended use

- Target support to meet needs of those affected by HB Reform – eg preventing homelessness, supporting people who need to move to alternative accommodation and advice services
- Can also be used to provide additional DHPs over and above the current allocation.

Examples of potential use:

- Support for Housing options or Homelessness teams deal with customers affected by reform
- Obtaining services such as money advice or back to work programmes with partner organisations
- Joint initiatives with different LAs
- Lump Sum costs such as removal costs, advance rent and deposits for those moving.

Not Intended for

- New administrative burdens arising from welfare reforms and the implementation of these changes. £24.1m has already been allocated (Circular S4/2013)
- Use of allocation will be monitored by DWP

Additional Centrally Held Funding for Bidding

£20 million of new Discretionary Housing Payment Funding. This is a bidding scheme via business case. Requirement to demonstrate robust policy in place for assessing and awarding DHP and active programme of local support for affected claimants.

Danny Gallacher, Head of Corporate and Transactional Services