

Associated guidance for this document can be found [here](#). Each section has a link to the relevant section within the guidance document.

1 Details of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function)

1.1 Directorate	Health, Housing and Communities
1.2 Service	Housing and Communities

1.3 Title of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function):
Local Welfare Provision (LWP): Scheme Review and Policy update for April 2024 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Scheme Review and Policy update for April 2024

1.4 Brief description of the activity:
<p>This IIA provides an update to the one originally submitted in support of a COG report (dated 4 April 2023): Local Welfare Provision Scheme and Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme Reviews, budget requirements and additional funding sources. A second COG report was submitted for the same meeting covered the separate Household Support Fund (HSF) delivery proposals</p> <p>Both LWP and DHP provide support to low to moderate income households (in many cases households' that are reliant on DWP Means Tested Benefits) and that may also be vulnerable.</p> <p>DHP is delivered according to central government guidance and funding which specify both types of support that can be provided and the groups to which support can be provided. Councils have broad discretion about how to deliver schemes and levels of support, but delivery of the scheme is closely monitored and DWP need to agree Management Information / Grant returns to secure funding.</p> <p>This updated IIA links mainly to the proposals being submitted for both the LWP and DHP schemes , which if agreed, will lead to revised policies for both from April 2024</p> <p>LWP is mainly aimed at means tested benefit households in crisis and emergency situations and that can be classed as vulnerable – it can provide help with food and fuel to people with no financial resources and / or help with white goods/beds and essential household items for households setting up home or that need help as part of an overall package of support.</p> <p>DHP is aimed at Housing Benefit or Universal Credit with Housing Costs recipients' that have eligible rent shortfalls and need additional help to pay their rent.</p> <p>Both schemes and policies are being updated and strengthened to enable both to be delivered from within agreed budgets, rather than as has recently been the case also supplemented by additional external funding. This will mean that fewer applicants / households can be supported in future.</p>

1.5 If the activity involves working with other directorates, partners or joint commissioning please state who is involved:
DHP, given its links to Housing Benefit, also requires close working with the councils Benefits Service.

1.6 Will all or part of the activity be delivered through a provider external to the Council? If Yes, please refer to the Corporate Procurement Processes
Yes

Appendix2
Sunderland City Council
Integrated Impact Assessment

1.7 If Yes, please explain what element(s) of the activity will be delivered through an external provider:
LWP: for the Community Care Support Scheme a range of framework providers and local providers currently deliver new and 2nd hand goods on behalf of the council. While the intention is to make a financial contribution the default delivery option from April 2024, by exception goods will still be used to make some awards

1.8 Which areas of the city will be impacted?	
Whole City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coalfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
East	<input type="checkbox"/>
North	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>
West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal Council Activity – Impact on employees	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.9 Is the activity targeted at protected characteristics or any other key groups?	
All of the below	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age (e.g. older people, younger people/children, a specific age group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability (e.g. mobility, long term health conditions, sensory impairment or loss, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief (including no belief)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Experienced People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people who are cared for or care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People vulnerable to socio-economic deprivation (e.g. unemployed, low income, living in deprived areas, poor/no accommodation, low skills, low literacy etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please complete the Completed By and Version Table below

Completed by:	Richard Elliott
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Version	Status	Author	Comments	Date Issued
0.1	Draft	Richard Elliott		04/04/2023
1.0	Complete	Richard Elliott	Updated to reflect LWP and DHP policy proposals	13/02/2024

2 Data and Intelligence

[Guidance for this section](#)

2.1 What data and intelligence has informed the activity?
<p>For LWP: the proposals have been informed by decisions on potential budgets for this year and following years together with detailed analysis / comparisons of support provided against key customer groups / spend for each of these since April 2023 , and by dialogue with other local councils</p> <p>For DHP: the proposals have been informed by decisions on budgets for this year and next year together with detailed analysis / comparison of support provided against key customer groups / spend for each of these over recent years but especially since April 2023, and by dialogue with other local councils</p> <p>For all of the above SCC has a range of data on its own scheme take up and numbers of benefit recipient's (by benefit type).</p>
2.2 Summary of data / intelligence / consultation outcomes to inform understanding of differences in:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the way people use, access or experience your activity; how the activity may impact; and/or outcomes for different groups? <p>Analysis from previous years indicates most of the support delivered by the 2 schemes is to households that are on low incomes receiving a range of means tested benefits and is part of ongoing mitigating activity to relieve financial pressures (exacerbated by more recent cost of living pressures). As such the support tends to go in many cases to households with protected characteristics as they may often be more reliant on means tested and non means tested benefits.</p> <p>As detailed above local intelligence has been used to inform delivery plans and scheme reviews which will include adopting a 'cash first' approach where appropriate to do so. This trend is evidenced by local and national research and lived experience.</p>

3 Equality and Human Rights

[Guidance for this section](#)

3.1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
3.2 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
What impact will the activity have?
Positive and Negative
Explain how/why:

3.3 Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
What impact will the activity have?
Uncertain
Explain how/why:
Most of the support will continue to go to low-income households / benefit reliant households. Many of these receive benefits due to disability for example. Some of the proposals for these SCC schemes from April 2024, including review of budgets, may both increase and decrease entitlements in respect of different customer groups

3.4 Age (older ages, children and young people, middle ages, an age range or a specific age)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive and Negative
Explain how/why:
Most of the support from all 3 schemes will continue to go to low-income households / benefit reliant households. Many of these receive benefits due to age or disability for example and vulnerable families. Some of the proposals for these SCC schemes from April 2024, including review of budgets, may both increase and decrease entitlements in respect of different customer groups

3.5 Disability (mobility, long-term health conditions, sensory, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive and Negative
Explain how/why:
Most of the support will continue to go to low-income households / benefit reliant households. Many of these receive benefits due to disability for example. Some of the proposals for these SCC schemes from April 2024, including review of budgets, may both increase and decrease entitlements in respect of different customer groups

3.6 Gender reassignment (the process of transitioning from one sex to another)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:

3.7 Marriage and Civil Partnership
What impact will the activity have?
Positive and Negative
Explain how/why:

3.8 Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:

3.9 Race (colour, ethnicity, country of origin, culture, etc.)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
Most of the support will continue to go to low-income households / benefit reliant households. Some BAME household's traditionally have lower incomes and impacted by other deprivation factors and are likely to be more reliant on benefits

3.10 Religion / Belief (including no belief)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:

3.11 Sex (male or female)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:

3.12 Sexual orientation
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:

3.13 Will the activity impact on an individual's Human Rights as enshrined in UK law?
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:

3.14 Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people cared for and care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders, homeless or multiple complexities/characteristics)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive and Negative
Explain how/why:
Most of the support will go to low-income households / benefit reliant households. LWP and DHP also support care experienced, DA victims and homeless, and these schemes are delivered and will continue to be delivered together with other council services and trusted partners for example the Housing Options Team. Some of the proposals for these SCC schemes from April 2024, including review of budgets, may both increase and decrease entitlements in respect of different customer groups

4 Reducing socio-economic and digital inequalities

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

4.1 Impact on residents' financial circumstances	Positive and Negative
4.2 Impact on housing, including type, range, affordability, quality and/or condition	Positive and Negative
4.3 Impact on digital inclusion or access	Positive and Negative
4.4 Impact on education, skills and lifelong learning	Uncertain
4.5 Impact on employment, including quality and access	Uncertain

4.6 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes
All 3 support schemes provide financial and other support to assist households better manage cost of living and housing pressures and therefore mitigate the impacts of low incomes / poverty. Some of the proposals for these SCC schemes from April 2024, including review of budgets, may increase and decrease entitlements in respect of different customer groups however any negative impacts are being considered as part of scheme review and development.
4.7 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)
Monitoring is built into Management Information and performance returns and LWP and DHP are also monitored via corporate PIs

5 Improving population health and reducing health inequalities

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

5.1 Help promote healthy living	Positive
5.2 Help promote safe and inclusive environments	Uncertain
5.3 Impact on children, young people and families	Positive and Negative
5.4 Impact on natural and built surroundings	Not Applicable
5.5 Impact on accessibility and active travel encouraging active behaviours	Uncertain
5.6 Impact on living independently	Positive

5.7 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes
. LWP also helps households to live more independently/ stay living more independently. Some of the proposals for these SCC schemes from April 2024, including review of budgets, may both increase and decrease entitlements in respect of different customer groups
5.8 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)
Monitoring is built into Management Information and performance returns and LWP and DHP are also monitored via corporate PIs

6 Carbon reduction and sustainability

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

6.1 Adapting our behaviour (environmentally significant)	Not Applicable
6.2 Impact on biodiversity and natural environment	Not Applicable
6.3 Impact on energy efficient built environment	Not Applicable
6.4 Impact on renewable energy generation and storage	Not Applicable
6.5 Impact on travel and active transport	Not Applicable
6.6 Impact on the green economy	Not Applicable
6.7 Impact on waste, recycling and consumption	Not Applicable

6.8 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes
6.9 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

7 Community wealth building

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

7.1 Impact on community wealth and social value	Positive
7.2 Impact on social inclusion, integration, and fostering good relations	Uncertain
7.3 Impact on crime reduction, anti-social behaviour and community safety	Uncertain
7.4 Impact on access to services	Positive

7.5 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes
A key feature of LWP is delivery via VCS partners and close working with agencies working with vulnerable households. All schemes also link to local welfare rights advice providers to provide support with underlying as well as presenting issues
7.6 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)
Monitoring is built into Management Information and performance returns and LWP and DHP are also monitored via corporate PIs. DHP and LWP reviews are also referenced in the updated CWB plan

8 Key Actions

Any key actions identified throughout the IIA should be recorded here. This will be the action plan linked to your activity and should be implemented to ensure all inequalities or negative impacts are mitigated.

Key Actions	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Review Date
Protected characteristics' will be considered as part of LWP scheme / policy review activity	Summer 2023	Richard Elliott	04/01/2024
Protected characteristics' will be considered as part of DHP scheme / policy review activity	Autumn 2023	Richard Elliott	04/01/2024

Please complete the Responsible Officer information below

Responsible officer sign off:	
Name	Richard Elliott
Job Title	Financial Resilience and Support Manager
Responsible officer for reviewing actions:	
Name	Graham Scanlon
Job Title	Assistant Director Housing and Communities

To support the council's reporting processes in relation to IIA, please use the following naming convention: IIA_(Name_of_activity).

Once you have completed the IIA and it is signed off, please send the final document as an **attachment** to: IIA@sunderland.gov.uk

IIAs will be stored in this central database for corporate analysis. **No feedback will be returned on an individual basis as IIAs are received.**