

Housing Benefit

A guide to Discretionary Housing Payments

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Visit the council's website for more information on this and other council services.

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What are Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs)?

The Government gives the council a limited amount of money each year to provide DHPs.

DHPs are used to provide further financial help with rent costs for Housing Benefit claimants who are suffering hardship because of unusual or difficult circumstances.

The payments are designed to help with the shortfall between rent costs and Housing Benefit. The aim is to prevent homelessness, so DHPs can also be used to cover rent arrears, rent deposits and rent in advance.

Each case will be considered on its own merits.

How does the council decide if I can have a DHP?

Each application will be considered on your individual circumstances but there are a number of things that will be taken into account when making a decision.

• Housing Benefit
• Council Tax

much detail as possible about your circumstances and why you need a DHP.

• Mortgage
• Z

statements for all your bank, building society and Post Office accounts to

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