

## **DISCRETIONARY HOUSING BENEFIT INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Overview**

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) can provide extra money when the council decides that you need extra help to meet your housing costs.

The council will look at your circumstances to see whether you are eligible for a DHP. They will decide whether to give you a DHP, how much you will be paid and for how long you will receive the payment.

### **Who can claim a Discretionary Housing Payment**

Anyone who needs more help with housing costs and is currently claiming:

- Housing Benefit or
- Universal Credit with housing costs towards rental liability

You can also apply if you are moving to smaller or cheaper accommodation and are unable to pay a rent deposit.

You cannot get a DHP to help with Council Tax, although some councils run similar funds alongside their local Council Tax Support schemes.

The government has given councils funding to give DHPs to people who have been impacted by welfare reforms including:

- the benefit cap
- removal of the spare room subsidy in the social rented sector
- changes to Local Housing Allowance rates, including the 4 year freeze

Some people may qualify for longer term support.

### **How a payment can be used**

You may be given a DHP to cover housing costs, such as:

- a rent shortfall, for example, as a result of welfare reforms
- rent deposits or rent in advance if you need to move home

### **How to claim**

Information on how to claim DHP is available at

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20013/benefits\\_and\\_swindon\\_money\\_matters/40/discretionary\\_housing\\_payments](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20013/benefits_and_swindon_money_matters/40/discretionary_housing_payments)

### **What happens if you claim is unsuccessful?**

Unfortunately, in the event that your claim is not successful there is no appeal process available to you. However, you can ask for your claim to be looked at again.