

## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**HOUSING BENEFIT– WAR PENSION DISREGARD**1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the continuation of the War Pension Disregard in respect of Housing Benefit claims in 2022/23.

2. Background

The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (War Pensions Disregards) regulations 2007 allow for Local Authorities to develop a Local Scheme that can disregard War Pension income from the calculation of Housing Benefit.

Since the introduction of Housing Benefit, the Council has always disregarded this income when calculating a claim for Housing Benefit. The Department for Works and Pension has recently requested that each Local Authority has their Local Scheme approved each year.

The Local scheme is discretionary and as a result the Council is expected to meet the cost. However, under the Housing Benefit subsidy arrangements, the government reimburses the Council 75% of the expenditure where a Local Scheme is implemented.

The table below shows the number of households supported, the amount awarded and the total cost to the Council. Please note that 2021/22 figures are not available until the end of the financial year.

Year	Amount Awarded	Total cost to BBC (25% of amount awarded)
2020/21	£15,411	£3,853
2019/20	£17,789	£4,447
2018/19	£16,561	£4,140
2017/18	£8,664	£2,166
2016/17	£15,740	£3,935

3. Financial implications

The Council has been accepting this cost each year as part of the annual Housing Benefit Subsidy process so will not be an additional strain on the Council's Budget.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the continuation of the current Local Scheme, disregarding War Pensions for Housing Benefit applicants in 2022/23 be approved.**

Background papers

Nil.