

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

**Housing Benefit - War Disregard**1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the continuation of the War Pension Disregard in respect of Housing Benefit claims in 2025/26.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the continuation of the current Local Scheme Disregarding War Pensions for Housing Benefit Applications in 2025/26, be approved.**

3. Detail

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 Pensions 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.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

## 6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The table below shows the amounts awarded and the cost to the Council in recent years. The latest 2024/25 figures are not available until the end of the financial year.

| Year    | Amount Awarded | Total Cost to Broxtowe (25% of amount awarded) |
|---------|----------------|--|
| 2023/24 | £9,687         | £2,422   |
| 2022/23 | £15,664        | £3,916   |
| 2021/22 | £14,828        | £3,707   |
| 2020/21 | £15,411        | £3,853   |
| 2019/20 | £17,789        | £4,447   |

## 7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Regulations providing for this are the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 paragraph 40(2) and schedule 5, and Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations 2006 paragraph 33(9). Sections 134 and 139 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 provide the Council with the discretion to modify the Housing Benefit scheme by disregarding a further amount, or all, of specified war disablement pensions and payments.

## 8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

## 9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

## 10. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

## 11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.