



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Agenda Item 11

### Member Question to Committee

QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO
<p><b>Councillor Norman Kay</b></p> <p>Given the unfairness of including the receipt of disability benefit payments in the calculation of Discretionary Housing Payments, will the committee agree to investigate and report back to committee on a policy of ignoring these payments in future? Such a report to include any views of the CAB on the effects.</p>	<p><b>Committee</b></p> <p>When deciding how to treat income from disability-related benefits such as Disability Living Allowance or the Personal Independence Payment, we have regard to the decision of the High Court in R v. Sandwell MBC, ex parte Hardy. In particular, we consider each DHP claim on a case by case basis having regard to the purpose of those benefits and whether the money from those benefits has been committed to other liabilities associated with disability.</p> <p>DWP provide a Discretionary Housing Payments Guidance Manual which includes a good practice guide. We work towards that guidance as mentioned in the policy.</p> <p>Officers have spent a significant amount of time working with members and CAB on the DHP policy. There has already been a members awareness evening, 2 information' sheets during 2016 and a task and finish group.</p> <p>DHP has increased for 2016/17, with £108,374 spend against a budget of £117,588.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question: Councillor Kay wanted assurance that this would be investigated by the Chair, Councillor Steve Robinson.</p>	<p>It was agreed that a further member review of DHP policy would be undertaken by Councillor Jonathan Edmunds and Councillor Penny Wride.</p>