

The following information came from the Head of Customer Focus and was sent to members of the Strategy and Resources Committee ahead of its meeting on Monday 7 October 2024 in relation to item 9 on the agenda: Household Support Fund 6.

Central Government has announced a new household Support Fund for the period of October 2024 – March 2025. From Devon County Council's allocation of just over £5 million, NDC is to receive £349,975 to award to our residents. This is the 6th fund we have administered since 2021.

We are proposing to administer with a mixture of direct awards applications, as with all our previous schemes.

Along with other districts in Devon, we are looking to direct award to pensionable age households which receive council tax reduction (means tested) but do not receive pension credit (which would entitle them to the winter fuel payment). We can do this in two different ways (a) a set amount to all households or (b) staggered amounts dependent on income.

Options are below:

- (a) Award either £100/£150/£175/£200 to all pensionable age households who are on a low income (receiving council tax reduction which is a means tested benefit) but are not currently in receipt of pension credit

Totals for this option 988 Households: **£100 = £98,800, £150 = £148,200, £175 = £172,900, £200 = £197,600**

- (b) Split the pensionable age households who are on a low income (receiving council tax reduction which is a means tested benefit) but are not in receipt of pension credit by income:

Households which are either below the pension credit threshold but not yet applied / had an application approved or are within £50 of the threshold per week

532 x £200 = £106,400

Households above £50 per week of the threshold = 456 x £100 = £45,600

Total for this option: **£152,000**

This would leave between: **£150k - £250k** for applications. Based on previous schemes, an allocation for applications of approximately £150k – £200k is most appropriate.