

## Record of Officer Decision

### Housing Assistance Policy

#### Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, on 04 December 2023.

#### Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

At the meeting of the Cabinet on 21 November, Members approved the Housing Assistance Policy and granted delegated authority to the Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities to make minor amendments to the Housing Assistance Policy as required.

As such the Director of Adult and Community Services has exercised this authority and amended the Housing Assistance Policy as set out below.

#### Decision Taken:

That the 'Armed Forces' section of the Housing Assistance Policy be amended to read as follows (amendments shown in **Bold**):

"Armed Forces Independence Payments (AFIP) as with the civilian equivalents, are ignored as income as for the purposes of DFG means-test and should be treated as receipt of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payments at the enhanced rate. These criteria are set by government as part of the means test criteria for the grant.

Due to the unique obligation and sacrifice of danger for serving and veteran military personnel, ~~any lump sum payments received through military compensation as well as military war pension~~ **all payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme 2005, War Disablement Pension Scheme, Service Invaliding Pensions and Service Attributable Pension** will be disregarded as part of the Disabled Facilities Grant means test.

All other aspects of the means test conditions still apply where a client does not receive a passporting benefit."

#### Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

To provide clarity that all military compensation payments will be disregarded when assistance is sought for improvements and adaptations to an individuals home.

#### Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:

There was no alternative option considered.

#### Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation:

None.

**Implementation:**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 12 December 2023 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email [governance.support@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:governance.support@torbay.gov.uk)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Director of Adult and Community Services)