

# Derbyshire Discretionary Fund

- policy review consultation



# Derbyshire Discretionary Fund (DDF)

- The Derbyshire Discretionary Fund (DDF) provides help for people who are struggling financially
- The DDF can make two types of awards:
  - Emergency Cash Payments
  - Exceptional Pressure Grants





# Emergency Cash Payments (ECPs)

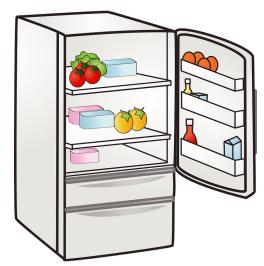
- Payments for food, heating and emergency travel
- Paid when there is a risk to health and safety
- Payments are £54 plus £10 for other household members
- Payments do not have to be paid back





# Exceptional Pressure Grants (EPGs)

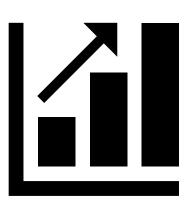
- People have to be in receipt of certain benefits
- Grants can be made for people in certain situations, such as setting up home after being homeless or moving out of a refuge
- Awards are usually made by delivering the item to the person directly
- Payments do not have to be paid back





### We need to make some changes

- The DDF started in 2013
- Every year the amount of people applying to the DDF has gone up
- The DDF budget is £1.3 million a year
- The budget has stayed the same
- We need to make some changes to stay in budget





#### We need to make some changes(2)

- We have some proposals (ideas) of how to change the DDF
- We want to find out what people think of these ideas
- There is a survey you can fill in from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup>
  March 2024



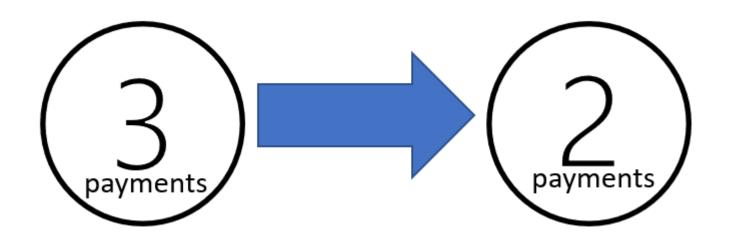


- Introduce a way to prioritise applications when the budget is low
- People who are more in need are more likely to be paid
- This means that the DDF will pay less people if the money is low



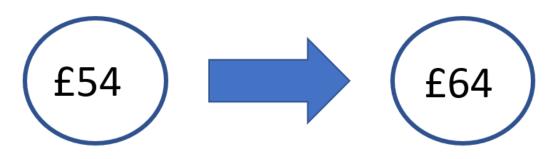


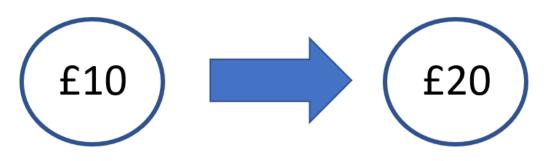
- Now, DDF can make 3 Emergency Cash Payments in a year
- Proposal 2 is to reduce this to 2 payments in a year



#### DERBYSHIRE County Council

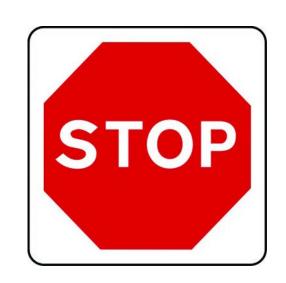
- The amount of an Emergency Cash Payment has stayed the same since 2015
- A payment is £54 for a single person
  - Plus £10 for each extra person in a household
- We think this needs to increase
  - Either the same as the increase in benefits (£64)
  - Or, the same as inflation (£80)
  - Plus £20 for each extra person in a household







- The DDF could reduce the types of things we make a payment for.
- We have three proposals (ideas)
  - Stop payments for rent in advance when someone moves into a new home
  - Stop payments for furniture and flooring when someone moves into a flat or house owned by a Council or Housing Association
  - Stop payments for travel





### Have your say

- We want to hear what you think of the proposals
- There is a survey on our website
- The consultation is open from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>
  January to Sunday 17th March 2024
- We can help you with the survey if you need help

