

Appendix C

Local Support & Prevention Fund Policy: summary of consultation replies

Consultation was carried out using the online portal and by directly contacting partner organisations in the Voluntary and Community sector and social sector landlords.

The consultation period ran from 12 March to 23 April and during this time 10 replies were received.

Questions asked the respondent to rate their answer using a scale running from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

The consultation asked the following questions and received the following replies:

1 – Are you responding as someone who has made an application/someone who has helped someone else to apply/a community or voluntary organisation?

Two replies were received from Voluntary/Community Sector employees; four from Registered Social Landlords; One from a Shropshire Council employee and three from members of the public or people who have helped others to make applications.

2 - To what extent do you agree with the stated aims of the policy on page 4?

Eight respondents either agree or strongly agree and two neither agree nor disagree. Of the latter, one commented that the challenge built into the decision making process was unwelcome

3 - The policy aims to prioritise applications from those in most urgent need. Examples are listed on pages 7 and 8 of the draft policy. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the listed criteria.

Eight respondents agreed or strongly agreed, one disagreed and one neither agreed nor disagreed. The latter raised the issue of clarity around qualifying benefits or conditions resulting in the covering paragraphs of the policy being made clearer.

4 - Do you agree with the treatment of income, assets and expenditure as detailed within the draft policy?

Seven respondents agreed or strongly agreed, one disagreed and two neither agreed nor disagreed.

5 - Applications to the Local Support and Prevention Fund do not carry the right of appeal but there is a system for reconsidering decisions on pages 16 and 17 of the draft policy. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this?

Six respondents agreed or strongly agreed, three disagreed or strongly disagreed and one neither agreed nor disagreed. One respondent who disagreed commented that it would be preferable to

go straight to 2nd tier reconsideration, another suggested that fund should provide immediate assistance without challenge.

6 - If you have any specific comments about these proposals please provide them here, including any other special circumstances that you think we should consider providing payment for.

Some comments resulted in minor wording changes and corrections to the policy. One respondent disagreed with means testing the ability to meet need, one comment queried why no figures for the overall amount of the fund had been quoted.