

## **Tamworth Borough Council Prevention (Spend to Save) Fund**

### **Policy statement**

#### **Introduction**

The Prevention Fund forms part of the 'toolkit' of options developed to assist the Housing Advice Team in preventing homelessness. This discretionary scheme was originally approved by Cabinet in June 2011 and has been in operations since funded by CLG homelessness prevention grant.

The purpose of the fund is to enable the Council to make a relatively small payment of no more than £500 in order to prevent homelessness and thereby saving the money that would otherwise have been used to fund Bed & Breakfast or other temporary accommodation.

The payment is by way of an interest free loan.

The payment can be made for any purpose but having made the payment the Authority must be satisfied that the homelessness has been prevented or delayed for a minimum period of 3 months as detailed in the accompanying procedure.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

The following eligibility criteria need to be satisfied in order for an application for assistance under the scheme to be considered:

- The applicant must be resident in the Borough
- A single payment, if approved, must prevent homelessness or delay homelessness in the short term
- The applicant needs to demonstrate that they have the financial capacity to repay the loan as detailed in the accompanying procedure.
- The final decision on eligibility will rest with the Deputy Director (Housing & Health)

#### **Risks and Mitigations**

The scheme is funded from CLG grant allocation and is cash limited. Tamworth Borough Council reserves the right to cease the scheme at any time.

Any payment from the scheme is by way of an interest free loan which will be collected from the applicant via the Councils debt collection systems

No payment is made to the applicant or any member of the applicant's household; all transactions are via the Councils Efin system and are made to the person or organisation that requires such a payment in order to prevent or delay the household from becoming homeless.

**Policy Date:** October 2011

**Review Date:** October 2013

**Approved by:** Cabinet

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