



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Officer Delegated Decision

22 April 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and Section 151 Officer

Housing Payment Policy 2026/27

To request approval of the Housing Payment Policy 2026/27.

Contact

Claire Moses, Head of Service (Revenues, Benefits and Customer Service)

 claire.moses@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
Decision:	To approve the Housing Payment Policy for 2026/27
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	Minor change to existing policy: Housing Payment strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund requires all reference to existing 'Discretionary Housing Payment' policies to be amended to 'Housing Payment'

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

- 1.1 There are no direct financial implications from the publication of the updated Housing Payment policy 2026/27.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Deputy Chief Executive has delegated powers to make minor changes to this policy for an interim period until the policy is approved by Cabinet on 2 June 2026.

Completed by:

2 The Purpose of the Report

Background

- 2.1 In June 2025, the Government announced a new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). The new scheme covers the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 and represents a shift from short term emergency help towards a more preventative, needs based approach
- 2.2 In the absence of any notification from Government regarding required changes to the existing policy, the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Policy 2026/27 was approved by Cabinet on 2 December 2026 – item 76: [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2025, 4.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)
- 2.3 On 15 January 2026, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published the CRF framework and guidance that authorities need to work within. The guidance sets out the objectives, framework and required collaboration between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire District Councils.

- 2.4 This included the amendment from 'Discretionary Housing Payment' to 'Housing Payment'
- 2.5 A detailed report was presented to Rural & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 March 2026 – item 9: [Agenda for Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 24th March, 2026, 2.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)

Funding and grant conditions

- 2.6 The CRF is a consolidated revenue grant that will be delivered through the Local Government Finance Settlement from the financial year ending (FYE) March 2027. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is providing funding to Authorities under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to administer the fund.
- 2.7 Authorities have discretion on exactly how this funding is used within the scope set out in the guidance and the Grant Determination Letter (“the Grant Determination”)
- 2.8 The grant conditions require Lincolnshire County Council to submit a delivery plan which outlines the planned activity across Lincolnshire for each strand to the DWP by 1 July 2026.
- 2.9 The guidance states that Authorities should seek to implement all elements of the CRF as far as possible by 1 April 2026. Where this has not been possible, the revised timeline and any interim mitigations must be stated in the delivery plan.
- 2.10 The three-year funding for Lincolnshire is provisionally £9.9 million, per year in Years 1 and 2 and £11m in year 3 (including Housing Payments). **The Housing Payments funding has been confirmed at £155,861, ring-fenced outside Finance Settlement baseline funding for Years 1 and 2.** Funding will be distributed via the Local Government Finance Settlement to Lincolnshire County Council with Districts’ allocation subject to the final scheme delivery.

New Housing Payment Regulations – 1 April 2026

- 2.11 [The Discretionary Financial Assistance and Discretionary Housing Payments \(Amendment and Revocation\) Regulations 2026](#) were laid on the 11 March 2026 and came into force on the 1 April 2026. These regulations enable DHPs in England to be incorporated into the CRF to become CRF Housing Payments.

- 2.12 The existing DHP policy 2026/27 has been amended, to reflect the name change to Housing Payment Policy 2026/27.
- 2.13 There have been no other changes to the policy.
- 2.14 The Housing Payment Policy 2026/27 will be appended to the Crisis Resilience Fund scheme report which will be presented to Rural & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 May 2026, and Cabinet (for formal approval) on 2 June 2026.
- 2.15 The Housing Payment Policy will be reviewed for 2027/28, and public consultation will be undertaken alongside the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2027/28 during September 2026.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Option 1: Do nothing – this would result in there being no policy for officers to adhere to when considering Housing Payment applications.
- 3.2 Option 2: To approve the amended policy for publication as set out at Appendix 1.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 2 is the preferred option.

5 Reasons for the Decision (s)

- 5.1 These are set out in the report.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Housing Payment Policy 2026/27

Signed by: 

Dated: 22 April 2026
