

Waverley Borough Council

Report to: Landlord Services Advisory Board

Date: 25 April 2024

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director: Julian Higson, Interim Strategic Director of Housing and Environment

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Report Status: Open

HRA Hardship Fund Spending Report and Breakdown 2023-2024

Executive Summary

1.1 In October 2022, a Hardship Fund was agreed to assist tenants in need of financial support as a result of that year's rent increase. The fund was £30,000 in that financial year and again in 2023-24, and has increased to £200,000 in 2024-25 as a result of the 7.7% rent increase and the 53 week rent year. The fund is of use by Waverley officers as a last resort, when all other charities and funds have been explored and when a tenant's ability to sustain their tenancy is deemed to be at risk without intervention.

1.2 This report is being presented to the Landlord Services Advisory Board as a breakdown of spending in the financial year 2023-24 and for any comment and any recommendations they may wish to make to senior management or the Executive.

Recommendation to LSAB:

2.1 It is recommended that the Board reviews the breakdown of spending in 2023-24

2.2 and

1. identifies any areas for comment or further exploration, and
2. makes any recommendations to senior management or the Portfolio Holders for Housing as appropriate.

Reason(s) for Recommendation:

3.1 This year, the Hardship Fund has been increased and at the last LSAB meeting there was a desire expressed to be more proactive with the fund. By identifying common areas of usage, the board can recommend targeting certain areas, types of tenancy, or characteristics that tend to be more commonly in need of the fund.

Exemption from publication

4.1 No

Purpose of Report

5.1 To provide a breakdown of spending for the HRA Hardship Fund in the financial year 2023-24 by:

- Type of award
- Property type
- Age of lead tenant

- Area

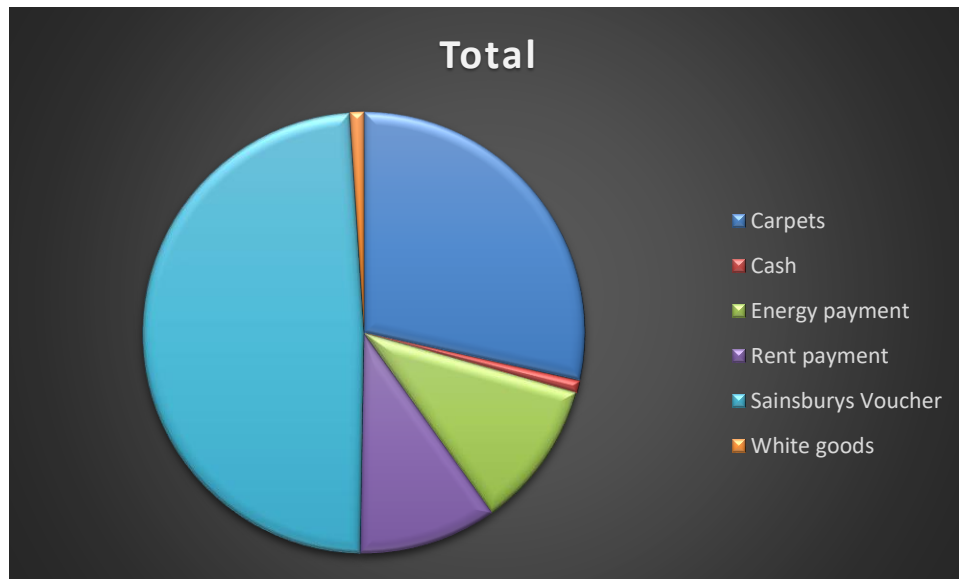
Strategic Priorities

6.1 To ensure that tenants are able to sustain their tenancies in the face of a 7.7% rent increase and a 53 week rent year.

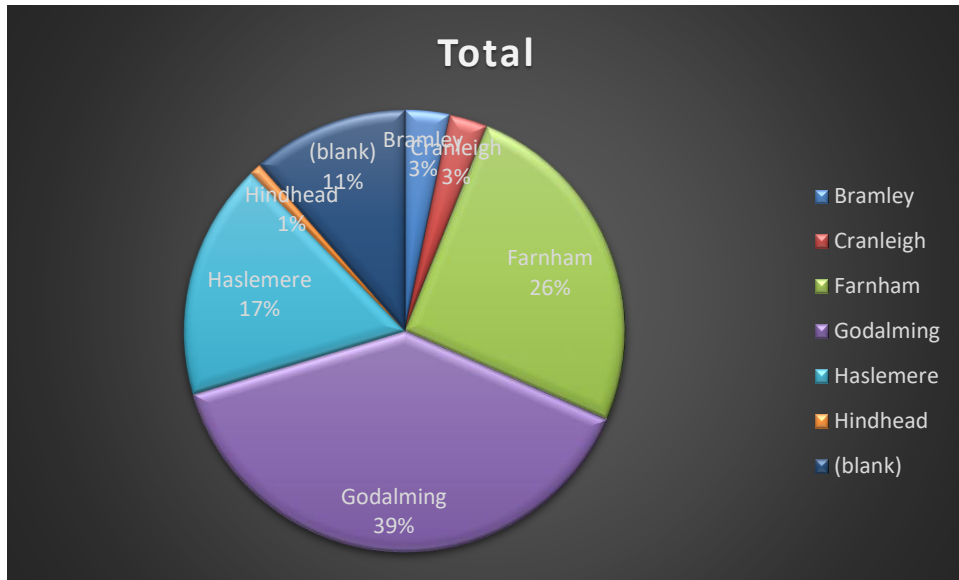
Data

Overall spend breakdown by Format of Award:

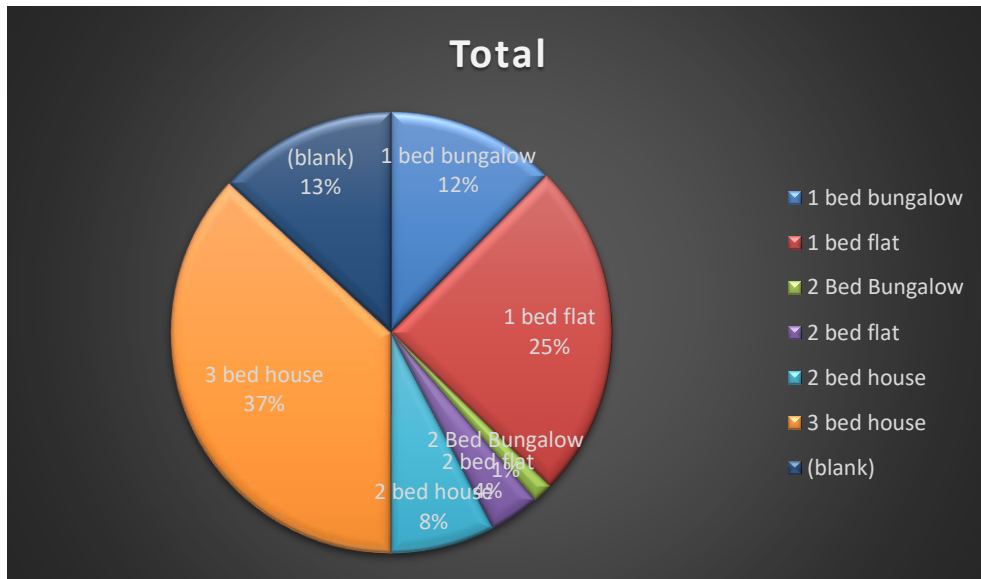
| Format of Award | Sum of Amount |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Carpets | £6,561.60 |
| Cash | £210.00 |
| Energy payment | £2,499.00 |
| Rent payment | £2,323.49 |
| Sainsburys Voucher | £11,229.70 |
| White goods | £239.00 |
| Grand Total | £23,062.79 |



Breakdown by Area:



Breakdown by Property Type:



Breakdown by age:

