

**Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 6 September 2023**

**779. Treatment of War Pensions and the Calculation of Housing Benefit**

The Head of Operational Finance submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, introduced the report and explained that the proposals would ensure the continuation of the policy whereby War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions were disregarded as income in the calculation of Housing Benefit. This was a particularly pertinent policy given Colchester's links to the Armed Forces and the Garrison.

*RESOLVED* that it be reconfirmed that War Pensions (as defined in paragraph 6.3 of the Head of Operational Finance's report) should be disregarded as income when calculating the entitlement to Housing Benefit.

*RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL* that it reconfirms this decision.

*REASONS*

The recommendations are supported as the Social Security Administration Act 1992 requires the Council to formally adopt any modification of the Housing Benefit scheme where the whole or part of any War Pension is disregarded.

Continue to maximise the support available for those residents in receipt of any War Pension.

*ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS*

It was open to Cabinet not to reconfirm that War Pensions should be disregarded as income when calculating the entitlement to Housing Benefit.