

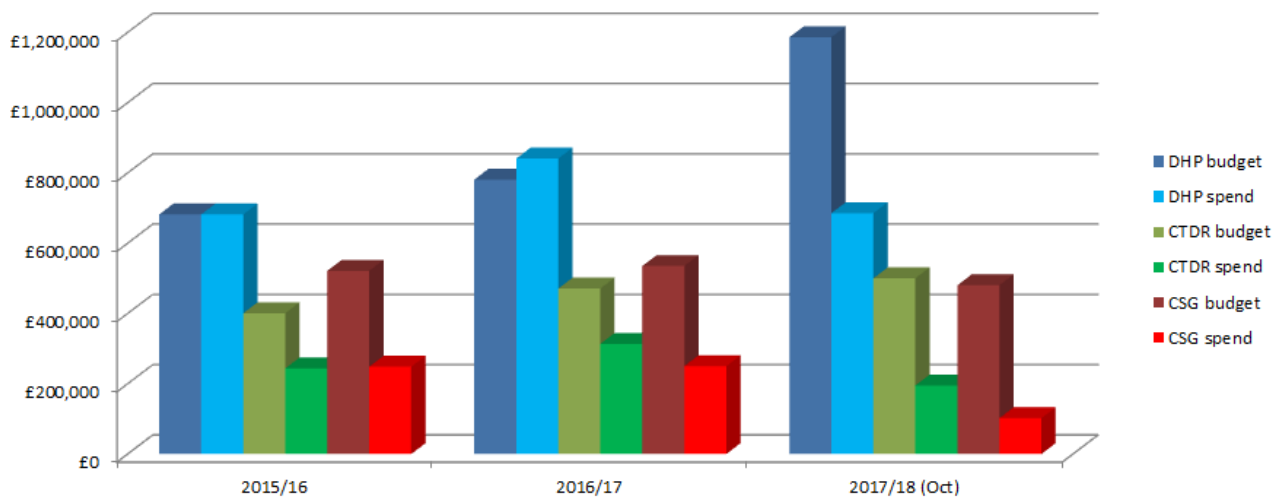


Leicester
City Council

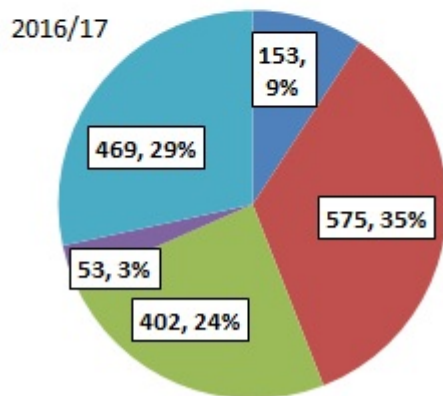
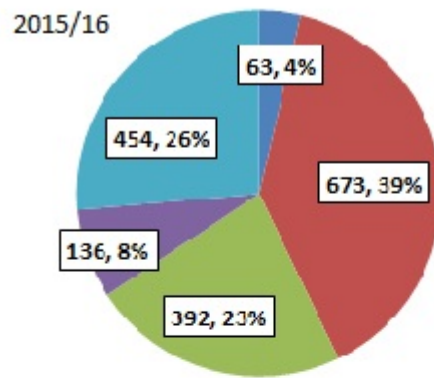
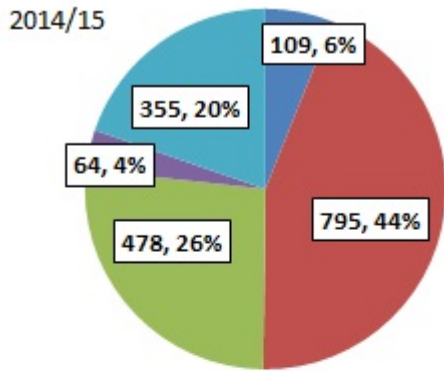
Appendix 2b:
Discretionary Policy & Welfare Reform
Statistical Analysis

Discretionary Expenditure 2015/16 to date

Financial year	Discretionary Housing Payments		Council Tax Discretionary Relief		Community Support Grants	
	DHP budget	DHP spend	CTDR budget	CTDR spend	CSG budget	CSG spend
2015/16	£681,863	£681,828	£400,545	£243,516	£521,171	£248,316
2016/17	£780,900	£840,895	£470,696	£313,240	£535,000	£250,103
2017/18 (Oct)	£1,186,024	£685,457	£500,000	£194,946	£480,000	£102,000



Financial year	DHP national budget	(Projected) LCC DHP budget
2015/16	£125m	£681,863
2016/17	£150m	£780,900
2016/18	£185m	£1,186,024
2018/19	£170m	(£1,089,860)
2019/20	£155m	(£993,696)
2020/21	£140m	(£897,532)



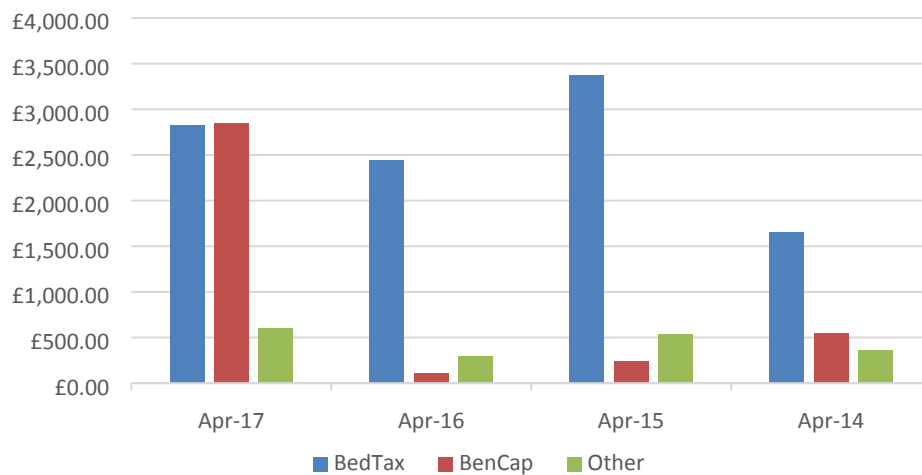
DHP/CTDR awards - by welfare reform

- BENEFIT CAP
- UNDER OCCUPATION
- LHA RESTRICTION
- COMBINATION OF REFORMS
- NO IMPACT

LA DHP expenditure by welfare reform

	LA DHP wkly	Underocc	BenCap	Other
Apr-17	£6,279.32	£2,828.51	£2,848.28	£602.53
Apr-16	£2,840.56	£2,443.66	£105.46	£291.44
Apr-15	£4,153.99	£3,376.24	£242.85	£534.90
Apr-14	£2,548.00	£1,648.02	£542.97	£357.01

Weekly LA DHP spend by welfare reform



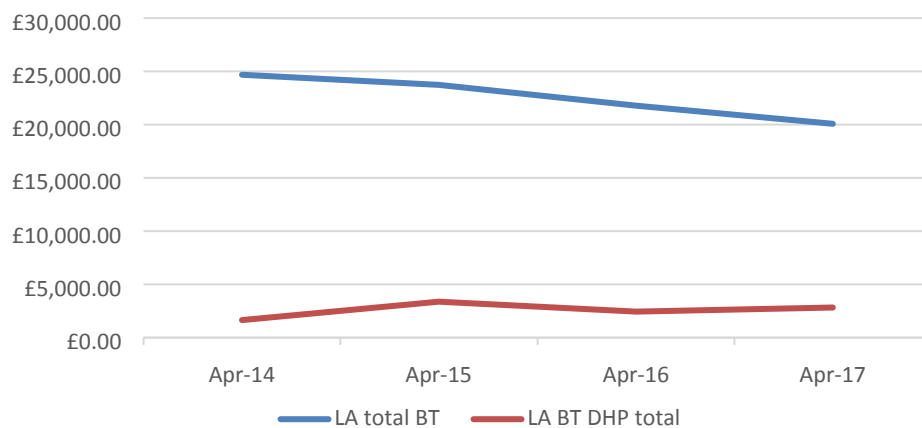
- Weekly DHP expenditure on LA cases has more than doubled between 2016 and 2017, from £2.8k to £6.2k per week.
- DHP expenditure on LA bedroom tax cases peaked in 2015, but again increased by 16% from 2016 to 2017.
- The lowered benefit cap has had a significant effect and now accounts for more spend for LA claims than the bedroom tax.
- Spend for claimants not affected by welfare reforms has also doubled.

LA Under-occupancy DHP expenditure

	LA total BT	LA BT DHP total	% DHP support
Apr-17	£20,077.33	£2,828.51	14.09%
Apr-16	£21,778.73	£2,443.66	11.22%
Apr-15	£23,731.04	£3,376.24	14.23%
Apr-14	£24,680.91	£1,648.02	6.68%

	LA BT cases	LA BT DHPs
Apr-17	1458	171
Apr-16	1585	166
Apr-15	1771	245
Apr-14	1850	119

Weekly LA underoccupancy reduction in HB versus DHP support



The number of properties and HB losses from under-occupancy have decreased steadily 2014 to date. However, DHP volumes and expenditure in this area have increased, are now level with the previous peak of 14% of under-occupancy rent shortfalls.

Bedroom tax households have previously typically been supported for a 52 week period, although of 172 live LA DHP under-occupancy claims:

- 49 have been supported for one to two years; (26.9%);
- 28 have been supported for two to three years (16.4%);
- 8 have been supported for over three years (4.6%).

We estimate that those we are legally required to support for a long-term or indefinite period, for example due to disability/property adaptation, to be between 5 and 10%.

LA underoccupancy cases – demographic analysis

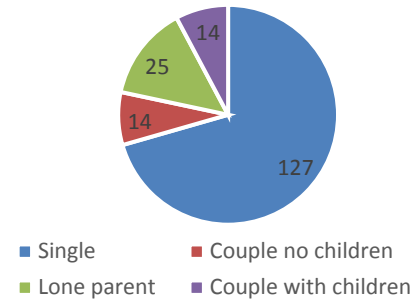
Household makeup	Number	% of caseload
Single	127	74.27%
Couple no children	14	8.19%
Lone parent	25	14.62%
Couple with children	14	8.19%

29 of the households listed as single also have at least one other non-dependent adult resident.

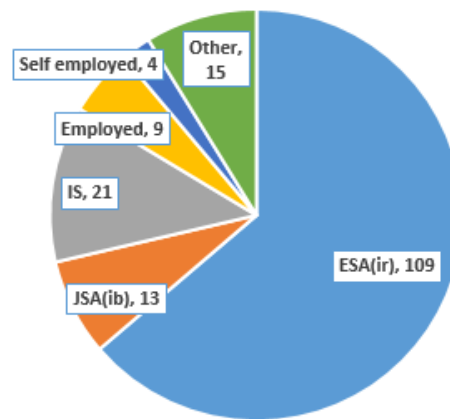
Gender	Number	% of caseload
Male	58	33.92%
Female	113	66.08%

Primary income	Number	% of caseload
ESA(ir)	109	63.74%
JSA(ib)	13	7.60%
IS	21	12.28%
Other	28	16.37%

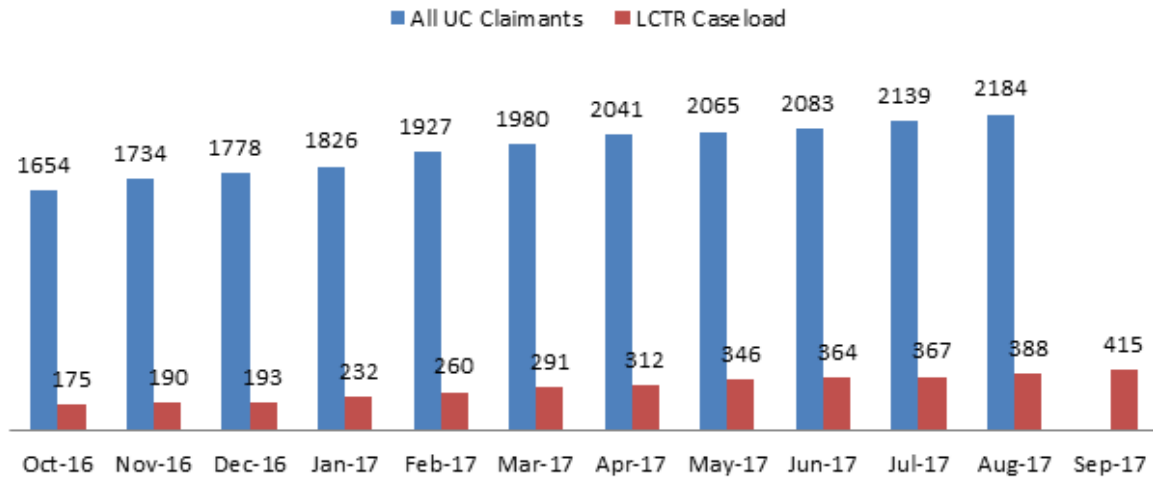
LA DHP claimants by household type



LA DHP claimants by primary income



Universal Credit Caseload in Leicester



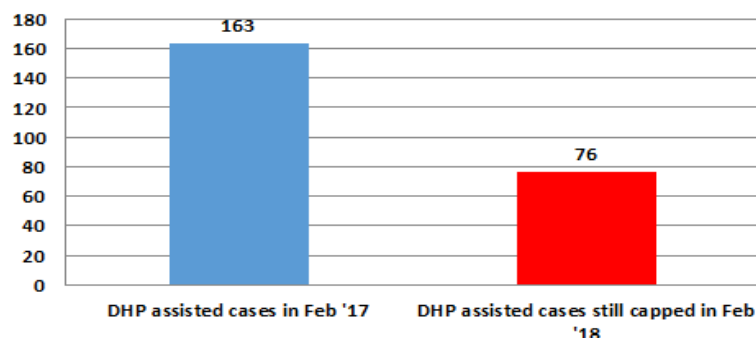
ADDENDUM – UPDATED RESEARCH INTO BENEFIT CAP HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED BY DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS 2017/18

The new lowered Benefit Cap was fully implemented in Leicester by 1 February 2017. On this date, 530 households were identified as having a reduced Housing Benefit entitlement due to the Benefit Cap.

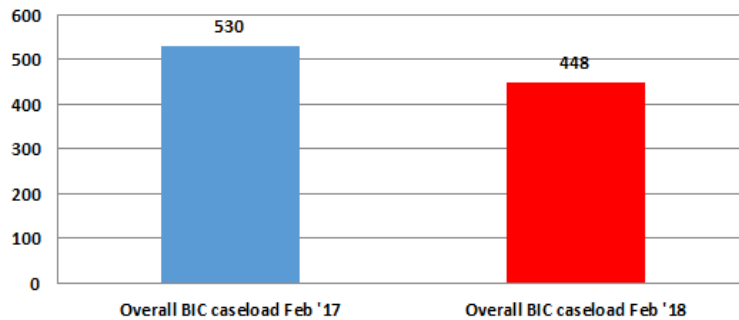
On the same date, 163 vulnerable households affected by the Benefit Cap were either already receiving a time-limited Discretionary Housing Payment award due to be extended in the new financial year, or had made a new application for Discretionary Housing Payments which was granted in the subsequent month. These cases have been tracked until 1 February 2018, during which time additional support has been offered on a tapered basis and customers have been prompted to attend specialist support through Citizens Advice LeicesterShire or another registered social welfare advice provider to address their underlying issues.

12 months after the cap was applied and support offered, more than half (87, 54%) of DHP-assisted cases are no longer affected by the Benefit Cap. By way of comparison, the total number of capped households has decreased by only 15% (from 530 to 448 households respectively).

DHP assisted Benefit Cap cases 17/18



All Benefit Cap cases 17/18



Of those cases assisted with DHP payments during 2017/18 affected by the Benefit Cap whose cap levels were subsequently lifted – more than half (54%) had moved into paid employment of at least 16 hours per week, resulting in either a continuing Housing Benefit claim without the benefit cap, or income exceeding benefit thresholds and no longer requiring benefit assistance as a result.

The next most significant reason for the Benefit Cap being removed was a member of the household applying for and being granted a disability-related benefit leading to an exemption (30%), which may also in part be attributable to the guidance offered by registered social welfare advice providers.

DHP assisted Benefit Cap cases - reason for cap removal

