

Advantages and Disadvantages of alternative methods of distribution

Method of Distribution	Potential Advantages	Potential disadvantages
Continue previous method	Consistent with previous years	Inconsistent throughout authority – creates tension within different areas of the Council Administration burden/additional cost for the Council Difficulty in ensuring all individuals benefit/ controlling who has not received payout Potential security issue/health issue for individual elderly with method of payout Not all elderly within the area benefit
Uncrossed cheques to individual persons	Consistent throughout authority More likely to have more individuals benefiting Individual can choose where/when money is spent Individual does not require to leave home to receive funds	Potential security risk of cheque being lost or stolen Administration burden/additional cost for the Council Difficulty in ensuring all individuals benefit/ controlling who has not received payout Individuals have to go out to receive cash Administration on Banks may not be well received
Crossed cheques/bacs payments/ postal orders to individual persons	Consistent throughout authority More likely to have more individuals benefiting Individual can choose where/when money is spent Individual does not require to leave home to receive funds Security risk is lessened than with uncrossed cheques	Administration burden/additional cost for the Council Difficulty in ensuring all individuals benefit/ controlling who has not received payout Administration on Banks may not be well received Not all individuals have bank accounts – may cause additional stress and effort to cash.

Method of Distribution	Potential Advantages	Potential disadvantages
Voucher for local shops	Consistent throughout authority More likely to have more individuals benefiting Individual does not require to leave home to receive funds	Time required to negotiate with local shops Individual cannot choose where money is spent Administration burden/additional cost for the Council Difficulty in ensuring all individuals benefit/ controlling who has not received payout
Credit on energy bills/council tax/rent	Consistent throughout authority More likely to have more individuals benefiting Individual does not require to leave home to receive funds	Time required to negotiate with energy organisations Individual cannot choose where money is spent Administration burden/additional cost for the Council Difficulty in ensuring all individuals benefit/ controlling who has not received payout
Area office distribution	Consistent throughout authority More likely to have more individuals benefiting Individual can choose where/when money is spent	Administration burden/additional cost for the Council Difficulty in ensuring all individuals benefit/ controlling who has not received payout
Social event by organisations	Consistent throughout authority Individuals benefit from a social event with others No security risk collecting monies Administration burden/cost for the Council substantially less	May not reach all vulnerable individuals in the area Individuals cannot choose how money is spent