

DISCRETIONARY ENERGY REBATE SCHEME

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In response to the cost of living the government announced a package of support, known as the Energy Bills Rebate, to help households with rising energy bills.
- 1.2 Under this scheme Government have provided funding for local authorities to develop a discretionary scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the Energy Bills Rebate the government announced a one-off £150 non-repayable rebate for the liable council taxpayer in council tax bands A to D, known as the Council Tax Rebate. To be eligible the property must be occupied on 1 April 2022 as someone's sole or main residence in the relevant bands.
- 2.2 The government recognises that there will be energy bill payers who are not eligible for the £150 energy rebate under the terms of the core scheme and that local authorities may wish to top-up support to the most vulnerable households. The government have provided funding of £320,850 to determine a local scheme to support households.
- 2.3 In accordance with government guidance our scheme supports households in council tax bands E to H in receipt of Council Tax Support and where an energy bill payer is not liable for council tax. Full details of the eligibility criteria are listed in the scheme.
- 2.4 The scheme will be fully promoted and applications will be via an online form, with supporting information being required. Support will be given to anyone unable to complete the online form. Awards will be £150 per household, and we will undertake pre-payments checks before making a payment into the applicants bank account.
- 2.5 To support those on a low income, any unallocated funding will be evenly distributed between all those in receipt of Council Tax Support, therefore topping-up the £150 energy rebate.
- 2.6 The scheme will be available for applications until 30 September 2022 and payments must be made by 30 November 2022.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council as the rebate awarded is fully funded by Central Government.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no environmental, crime or disorder implications.

5. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The funding is being used to provide additional support to vulnerable households.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme, attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

7.1 **I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.**

Sign: Cllr Jeremy Heron

Date: 6 June 2022

For further information please contact:

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Background Papers:

Discretionary Energy Rebate
Scheme (Appendix 1)

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 6 June 2022

Last date for call in – 13 June 2022