

Agenda Item

REPORT OF Staci Dorey, Head of Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)
To: Community & Resources
Subject: £150 Energy rebate – discretionary scheme
Date: 25th July 2022 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek member approval for the adoption of the Discretionary Council Tax Rebate Scheme 2022/23 (£150 energy rebate)

1. INTRODUCTION

In February 2022 the Government announced additional financial support for households to help protect them from rising energy costs. Within these measures were two schemes whereby a £150 energy rebate would be paid to households who were named as liable on council tax accounts. The standard scheme had the criteria stipulated by the Government for specific households who reside in properties in council tax bands A – D; councils have had to administer this scheme, but had no jurisdiction to amend the criteria.

On top of the standard scheme, additional funding has been made available to Local Authorities in order to produce a discretionary scheme which will provide support to vulnerable people and individuals on low incomes who reside in properties in bands E – H.

2. PROPOSED POLICY

The proposed policy is attached at appendix 1; the key points are detailed below:

- The scheme will be in place for the financial year 2022/23 only. However the scheme will need to be closed on 18th September 2022, in order for all accounts to be paid and finalised as the financial information has to be reconciled and reported to Central Government by 30th November 2022.
- The funding provided by Central Government is restricted. The discretionary funds allocated totals £143,250.
- The scheme is limited to people who fit into certain criteria. Eligibility will be based on accounts with exemptions/discounts for people who are disabled, carers, under 18, students, dependant relative living in an annexe and/or in receipt of Council Tax Support. Households who meet one or more of these criteria in properties banded E-H will be entitled to a one off payment of £150.00.
- Additional 'top up' support of £20.00 will be provided to those customers in bands A-D who have had the £150 energy rebate payment under the standard scheme and who meet the above criteria.
- The decision will be based on the circumstances of the household at the end of the day on 01st April 2022 (same as the standard scheme).
- For customers who are eligible, paying their council tax by direct debit or are cash payers who have received a £150 payment from the standard scheme, the award will be paid automatically.

- For the remaining eligible cash payers, a mailshot will be issued to invite them to apply for the assistance.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

n/a

Financial Implications

n/a

Human Resources Implications

n/a

Sustainability Implications

n/a

Equality/Diversity

n/a

Risk Management

n/a

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members approve the adoption of the Discretionary Council Tax Rebate Scheme 2022/23 for the duration of the qualifying dates during 2022/23, or until the funds are exhausted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Staci Dorey, David Heyes

Contact: Jo Wells

Officer:

Background papers: