

Executive decision taken by Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder



Decision taken by:

Leader of the Council, Councillor Zoe Nicholson

Date of decision:

13 June 2022

Subject of report:

On 3 February 2022 the government announced a package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate to help households with rising energy bills. This includes:

- A £200 discount on their energy bills this autumn. This will automatically be repaid over the next five years
- A £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in Council Tax Bands A to D. This is known as the Council Tax Rebate
- £144 million of discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate.

The Council will receive £4,987,650 for the Council Tax Rebate scheme which must be spent by 30 September 2022 and £222,150 of Discretionary funding which must be spent by 30 November 2022. Any underspend must be returned to government and in the event of an overspend, no additional funding will be provided.

Exempt matter (if any as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972):

No

Key decision?:

No

Open summary of decision made:

- (1) The Leader approves the Council Tax Rebate and Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Scheme as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report
- (2) The Leader grants the Director of Service Delivery delegated authority to implement and, if necessary, amend the Scheme, such delegated authority to include any measures necessary for or incidental to its management and administration

In accordance with section 17 of the Council's Policy and Performance Advisory Committee Procedure Rules, the call-in procedure shall not apply to this decision given its urgency. A decision is urgent if, in the view of the decision maker, any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would, for example, seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

Reason(s) for decision:

This is a new scheme which needs to be implemented as a matter of urgency and so executive approval for the scheme is being sought from the Leader. The Leader is being asked to authorise the Director of Service Delivery to implement and administer the scheme as there is no existing officer delegation in place.

Alternative options considered:

None

Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken? If so, what was the result of this consultation?

Yes

Does the proposal involve any unplanned expenditure? If so, please confirm that you have consulted with the Chief Finance officer and include the date of consultation

The scheme will be fully funded by the government.

Date of consultation: 10 May 2022

Signed:

Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council

Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder