

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

This is a record of a decision taken by the officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

## **Delegated Power**

**Cabinet: 17 November 2020**

**Para 13:**

That authority be delegated to the Revenues and Benefits Manager, in consultation with the s151 Officer and Council Leader, to decide the discretionary criteria for government Covid-19 support schemes and discounts where they:

- Are part of a central government Covid-19 support initiative,
- Are funded by central government, and
- Will be administered by the Revenues and Benefits section

## **Decision Taken**

Agreement of the Council Tax Energy Rebate - Discretionary Scheme Extension for 2022/2023, as per the attached policy.

This scheme extends the original Council Tax Energy Rebate Discretionary Policy (April 2022) and should be read in conjunction with that policy. Both policies apply until 30 November 2022 when the schemes close.

The government has provided funding of £319,800 to allow us to design our own discretionary Energy Rebate scheme for households who are not eligible for the main scheme but who are vulnerable or most in need. We have already used this money to provide a £150 rebate to vulnerable households in higher council tax bands who are not eligible for the main scheme, and to provide a £25 top up payment to all households receiving council tax support so they receive a rebate of £175.

At 31 October 2022 there is still £44,000 of this funding left available to spend, as the contingency fund for one off cases has not been needed, and the estimates of qualifying households were slightly higher than the numbers who were actually eligible.

This scheme uses this funding to extend the £25 top up payment to an additional 1,200 households which fall into vulnerable or in need groups and have already received a £150 rebate.

## **Reasons for the Decision**

To agree the policy for extending the discretionary Energy Rebate policy to utilise the remaining discretionary funding from central government.

## **Options considered**

Various options for awarding further payments have been reviewed. The options are limited as most of our households are eligible for the government's main energy rebate payment. Therefore our extended discretionary policy uses the remaining funding to provide a further £25 payment to 1,200 households who could be considered to be vulnerable or in need as they are receiving certain reductions on their council tax bills.

The proposed policy is included with this report.

**Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.**

Not applicable

**Recommended by**

Signature



Jo Stanton, Revenues and Benefits Manager

Date: 8 November 2022

**Authorisation**

Signature



Michelle Drewery, s151 Officer

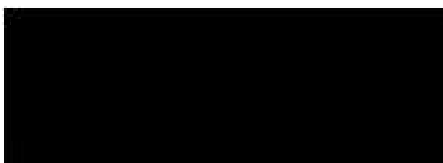
Date 11 November 2022

**Consultation with members/officers**

**If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:**

Consultation with the Council Leader, Councillor Stuart Dark

**Signed by Member as consulted:**



Councillor Stuart Dark

Date 23 November 2022

**Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment**



Name of policy/service/function	Council Tax Energy Rebate – Discretionary Scheme Extension				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?	Continuation of an existing policy				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	The policy expands the discretionary scheme £25 top up to include more households who are considered vulnerable or most in need				
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>				
<p><b>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</b></p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			√	
	Disability	√			
	Gender			√	
	Gender Re-assignment			√	
	Marriage/civil partnership			√	
	Pregnancy & maternity			√	
	Race			√	
	Religion or belief			√	
	Sexual orientation			√	
Other (eg low income)	√				
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Comments</b>			
<b>2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?</b>	No				
<b>3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?</b>	No				
<b>4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?</b>	No				
<p><b>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?</b> If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	N/A	<p><b>Actions:</b> None required as the policy has an intended positive impact on protected groups</p>			
		<p><b>Actions agreed by EWG member:</b> .....Jo Stanton.....</p>			
<p><b>If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:</b></p>					

<b>Assessment completed by:</b> <b>Name</b> Joanne Stanton	
<b>Job title</b> Revenues and Benefits Manager	<b>Date</b> 8 November 2022