

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE – DISCRETIONARY SCHEME EXTENSION

November 2022

1. THE DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE SCHEME

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 scheme closes.

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 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 groups and have already received a £150 rebate.

2. ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

Eligibility is based on the qualifying date of 1 April 2022.

The following categories of household are eligible for the £25 top up payment under the extended discretionary scheme:

- Those in any council tax band which have already received the £150 Energy Rebate payment and which, on 1 April 2022, either:
 - Received a Disabled Band Reduction,
 - Received a council tax exemption as all members of the household are:
 - under 18,
 - Severely Mentally Impaired,
 - Students, or
 - dependent relatives living in an annexe
 - Had a person in the household who is disregarded for council tax purposes in one of the following categories:
 - Severely Mentally Impaired
 - Live In Carers (Class 1)

Exclusions:

Any household who has already received the £25 top up payment is not eligible under this policy. Only one top up payment is payable per household, even if they qualify under more than one category.

Any household living in a House of Multiple Occupation where the landlord is responsible for the energy bill is excluded.

3. PAYMENT AMOUNT

The top up is paid as a one-off £25 payment.

4. MEMBER DISCRETION

This scheme allows individual applications to be considered on an exceptional basis.

Awards will be made on a recommendation basis by the s151 Officer or Revenues and Benefits Manager, in consultation with the Council Leader or the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities and are wholly at the discretion of the Council.

5. APPLICATIONS

No application is required as the top up will be paid to households which have already received a £150 Energy Rebate payment.

All Energy Rebate Schemes close on 30 November 2022.

6. FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION

We will not accept fraudulent applications for the Energy Rebate and will carry out checks to ensure all applications for payments are accurate. We may refuse to pay the Energy Rebate if we suspect an application is fraudulent for any reason. We will check information at the time of application and may also carry out spot checks at a later date, including asking for further evidence. We will recover any payments found to have been claimed fraudulently.
