

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

### RECORD OF URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBER

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**Decision By: Cllr Tony Denton**

**Cabinet Lead for Finance**

**Key Decision: No**

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**1. DECISION CATEGORY:**

Urgent Decision taken pursuant to Part Three, Section B Access to Information Standing Orders, No 63. Special Urgency

**2. REASONS FOR URGENCY AND WHY NOT PRACTICABLE TO WAIT:**

A policy needs to be agreed, so that rebate can be paid from April onwards

**3. DETAILS AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

*I have read the report outlining the Discretionary scheme for an Energy Rebate of £150 per household, payable to households in bands E to H, where the Council Tax payer is in receipt of state benefits. I understand a sum of £259,050 has been received for this purpose.*

*From our discussion, I fully accept that the process you are going to adopt - along with the 5 Councils, through Capita's use of IT software - will enable the correct checks and balances to be carried out ensuring those who need this financial support, but who fall outside the mandatory payment scheme, will be supported.*

Cllr Lloyd – 30/03/22

**4. THE DECISION:**

Approve the Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme, see appendix A

**5. REASONS FOR DECISION:**

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 included a £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in council tax bands A – D\*, known as the Council Tax Rebate (the Main Scheme), and discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate (the Main Scheme).

*A-D\*: This includes property that is valued in band E but which has an alternative valuation band of band D, as a result of the disabled band reduction scheme*

The decision is required urgently to enable the Discretionary scheme to commence from April 2022. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been consulted as to why the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred, and under the provisions of the Constitution, has given her agreement that the decision may be taken under such circumstances.

The criteria are for local authorities to determine but awards should not be made to a household that has received an award under the Main scheme.

The Guidance states:

Councils can determine locally how best to make use of this funding to provide payments to other households who are energy bill payers but not covered by the Council Tax Rebate.

This could include households living in property valued in bands E – H that are on income related benefits or those where the energy bills payers are not liable for council tax.

Occupants of class M (student halls) are unlikely to be eligible for discretionary support, unless they are exposed to rising energy prices in a similar way to other households.

Discretionary support should not be offered to occupants of property in exemption class O, where the Ministry of Defence will provide cost of living support.

Unlike the Main Scheme for eligible residents of properties in band A-D who will receive £150.00 based on occupancy on the 1 April 2022. The Discretionary Scheme can be more flexible in respect of the date and an amount '**up to**' £150.00 per household can be awarded.

Applications must be submitted by the liable person and prepayment checks in line with the requirements of the main scheme are to be carried out on all applications.

6. **DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

None

7. **SOURCE OF FUNDING (to be confirmed by Finance):**

Havant BC has been allocated £259,050 for the Discretionary Scheme. This is a cash limited allocated which will not be topped up, and unspent funds must be returned to the Government at the end of the scheme in November 2022.

8. **ADVICE PURSUANT TO SO 63.2**

The Chief Executive, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Deputy Section 151 Officer have agreed that the Council and/or the residents of the Borough would be prejudiced if the matter were not determined before the next scheduled Full Council meeting.

9. **DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL TO WHICH THE DECISION WILL BE REPORTED:** 13 April 2022

Signed by Cllr Tony Denton

CABINET MEMBER FOR Finance

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022