



TITLE OF DECISION: COUNCIL TAX REBATE – DISCRETIONARY SCHEME

OFFICER REQUESTING: MARGARET WALLACE
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR – PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 26 MAY 2022

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To outline the process and gain agreement for the distribution of funds under the Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Scheme so that payments can be made to Ryedale Residents as soon as is possible. Ryedale District Council will administer two separate schemes, one mandatory scheme and a Discretionary Scheme. Both schemes are fully funded by Government, Ryedale District Council has been allocated £110,250 for the Discretionary Scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The criteria for Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Scheme is agreed.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 The mandatory scheme is fully funded and a clear criteria is provided by Government – See Appendix 1

3.2 The Council is required to develop a criteria for the discretionary scheme to support our most vulnerable residents.

3.3 On 3 February 2022 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a Council Tax Rebate Scheme as part of a package to support households in respect of rising energy costs.

3.4 The Council Tax Rebate Scheme is effectively in two parts, the mandatory scheme which is determined by Central Government and the Discretionary Scheme which forms part of a separate policy which is agreed by the Council.

3.5 Central Government has provided funding to the Council, however, all payments will have to be made prior to 30 September 2022 which is the deadline for this scheme.

3.6 The proposed Eligibility Criteria for the Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Scheme is:-

- 3.6.1 Award £150 to all households in dwellings E – H who are currently in receipt of

Council Tax Reduction (CTR)

3.6.2 Award a £25 top up payment to households in dwellings A – H who are currently in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (CTR)

- 3.7 The above criteria is clear, concise, within budget and supports our most vulnerable residents.
- 3.8 The Eligibility date for the Discretionary Scheme is 1 April 2022
- 3.9 Following approval a Policy will be written for the Discretionary Scheme based on the agreed criteria.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 If the Urgency Power is not utilised, there is a significant risk due to the timings of the required committee meetings late agreement of a Discretionary Scheme would lead to a delay in payments being made which could lead to complaints being received from residents and cause reputational damage.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
Both the Mandatory & Discretionary Schemes are fully funded by Government. Due to the small funding available for the Discretionary Scheme the criteria is limited.
 - b) Legal
The Council has a legal obligation to award appropriate funding within an approved budget.
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
There are implications for Equalities and Staffing if the Urgency Power is not invoked and payments are delayed. Further, there will be increased pressure on staff within the Revenues & Benefits Team dealing with the increase volume of enquiries.

6.0 MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

Group Leaders to be advised that Urgency Powers have been invoked to agree the criteria and to outline the process for the distribution of funds under the Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Scheme. This will ensure that payments can be made to Ryedale Residents as soon as is possible. Ryedale District Council will administer two separate schemes, one Mandatory Scheme and a Discretionary Scheme. Both schemes are fully funding by Government, Ryedale District Council has been allocated £110,250 for the Discretionary Scheme. Delay in implementing both Schemes would cause significant risks and hardship to the District's most vulnerable residents.

7.0 CONSULTATION RECORD

According to the Constitution, under urgency powers, decisions usually taken by the Council and its committees are taken by the CEO following consultation with the appropriate elected members.

The appropriate elected members are:

- The Leader of the Council
- The Chair of the appropriate committee, for matters relating to that specific committee¹
- Relevant Ward member(s), if any, for matters of particular relevance to that ward²

Name of Consultee	Councillor D Keal
Agree	
Date consultation completed	25.5.22

Name of Consultee	Councillor S Arnold
Agree	
Date consultation completed	25.5.22


Name of Consultee	Councillor L Burr
Agree	
Date consultation completed	25.5.22

Name of Consultee	Councillor J Frank
Agree	
Date consultation completed	25.5.22

Name of Consultee	Councillor M Potter
Agree	
Date consultation completed	25.5.22

Name of Consultee	Councillor K Duncan
Agree	
Date consultation completed	25.5.22

8.0 DECISION

Decision of the CEO based on consultation	To be completed after consultation
Approved.	

¹ "Chairman of the appropriate Committee" refers to committee specific matters and does not mean that all Committee Chairs will be consulted on everything

² "Relevant Ward Member(s), if any" refers to ward specific matters and does not mean that all Members will be consulted on everything