

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23
Decision No.
2365

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 16 May 2022

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Energy Rebate Discretionary Policy
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council; Maintain and extend prosperity

Purpose:

The report seeks to set the principles to be used for the development of an Energy Rebate Discretionary Policy and requests delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, to finalise the detail in the Policy and approve any subsequent amendments that are needed.

The Government has tasked local councils with distributing energy rebates of £150 to council tax payers in the local area. Fareham Borough Council has received £5,367,000 from the Government to administer the mandatory scheme for council tax payers in Council Tax Bands A-D plus those in Band E who receive Disabled Relief.

Fareham Borough Council has also received £122,400 to support households not eligible for the mandatory scheme, such as council tax payers in Council Tax Bands E-H. The Council is required to set a Discretionary Policy on how this latter funding will be used across the Borough. Energy rebates using this discretionary funding must all be made by the end of November 2022.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) the key principles to be followed when designing the Energy Rebate Discretionary Policy, as outlined in paragraph 12, are approved for adoption in Fareham;
- (b) authority is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, to approve the detail of the Policy and any subsequent amendments that are needed; and
- (c) this delegation extends to any further government schemes designed to assist households with the rising cost of living, which the government requests the Council to deliver by a stated deadline, and which have a discretionary element as to who are the recipients of that support.

Where the Deputy Chief Executive Officer considers it in the best interests of the local residents to deviate significantly from the government guidance on their preferences as to who are the recipients of that support, and what support they receive, the proposed scheme will first be reported to the Executive for decision.

Reason:

The principles have been drawn up to help develop a Policy which maximises the benefit that can be provided to residents sooner, rather than later, whilst still following the spirit of the government guidance.

As the number of eligible households is likely to exceed funding available, it is proposed to stagger the design and implementation of different elements making up the Policy to gain an understanding of the impact of the level of take up on the funding available. However, it is still intended to roll these out at a quickened pace so that the Government deadline can be met which may be hampered if full Executive approval is sought each time.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor S D Martin (Deputy Executive Leader)

Monday, 16 May 2022