

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	30 JANUARY 2023	16
ENERGY REBATE DISCRETIONARY SCHEME - UPDATE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

On 3rd February 2022, the government announced a package of support for rising energy costs. This included a main scheme allocating £150 to the majority of households in Council Tax Bands A to D.

In addition to the main scheme, a Discretionary Fund was also announced. It is for Local Authorities to determine how best to utilise the discretionary funds by 30th November 2022; Fylde Council received an allocation of £181,350.

On 23rd June 2022 the Finance and Democracy Committee agreed proposals which have subsequently been implemented. Given that these schemes did not utilise all the funding available, a subsequent report to this committee on 28th September 2022 outlined the potential proposals for using the remaining funds.

The purpose of this information item is therefore to advise the committee how the discretionary funds were ultimately allocated in line with the previous decisions of the committee.

Discretionary Energy Rebates – FBC total allocation £181,350

Description of categories for allocation of support	Number of allocations made	Amount allocated
Per June 2022 F&D recommendation - CTRS recipients (Bands E-H)	223	£33,450
Per June 2022 F&D recommendation - Disabled Band Reduction (Bands F-H)	57	£8,550
Per June 2022 F&D recommendation - Severely Mentally Impaired Exempts (Bands E-H)	20	£3,000
Per June 2022 F&D recommendation - Severely Mentally Impaired Disregards (Bands E-H)	54	£8,100
Per June 2022 F&D recommendation - Carer Disregards (Bands E-H)	12	£1,800
Per Sept 2022 F&D recommendation - HMO/meter scheme	45	£6,750
Per Sept 2022 F&D recommendation – Chief Financial Officer delegation in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Democracy Committee - CTRS households with dependents	1,039	£119,692.80
Total	1,450	£181,342.80

The vast majority of the total allocation from the discretionary fund has therefore been awarded as set out above.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Finance and Democracy Committee - 23 June 2022 – Resolved as follows:

1. To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £181,350 in 2022/23 from the Discretionary Fund Government Grant allocated to the council for this purpose, and to agree to the distribution of funding proposals 1-6 (contained in paragraph 5 of the report).
2. That subject to the outcome of 1 above, a further report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee to determine how the balance of funding is to be allocated.

Finance and Democracy Committee - 28 September 2022 – Resolved as follows:

1. To accept the proposed recommendations for the distribution of the remaining funding based on the information contained in the body of the report.
2. To authorise the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Committee, to determine the appropriate use for the distribution of any residual funds.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Support for Energy Bills - Council Tax Rebate 2022-23 guidance	16/03/2022	Support for energy bills - the council tax rebate 2022-23: billing authority guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Council Tax Rebate Frequently Asked Questions	16/03/2022	7/2022: Council Tax information letter - 16 March 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)