



## **Portfolio Holder Decision**

**Published on 03 August 2022**

**Decision:** Council Tax Discretionary Energy Fund Policy

**Decision taker:** Portfolio Holder for Finance

**Decision Date:** 28 July 2022

**Is decision subject to Call-in?** Yes

**Deadline for Call-in:** Noon on 8 August 2022

**Is decision Exempt?** No

**Is decision urgent?** No

### **Summary**

To provide an update on the options for spending the discretionary fund allocations for Council Tax Energy payment and recommend to the attached proposed policy.

### **Decision**

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Council Tax Discretionary Energy Fund Policy (annex to the decision notice) be approved.

### **Reasons for Decision**

This scheme is recommended as it will ensure the majority of the funds are dispersed quickly to those households that are vulnerable whilst also maximising the allocations.

Providing the funds in this form will help reduce the impact of the cost of price rises on health and support the better housing better service initiative, an Oxfordshire wide project.

### **Options Considered**

#### **Option 1**

Pay all customers that are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and are liable for council tax in a property that attracts a Council Tax band E to H a one off payment of £175.00 there is currently 209 cases spending £31,350

Customers in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and in occupation of a property that falls into Council Tax band A to D will receive a top up payment of additional £25.00 there is 6046 cases spending £151,150

Invite applications for the remaining funds based a means tested application regarding income and expenditure.

This option has been discounted as we would need to delay allocating resources until we had received and assessed all applications in order to determine how much funding could be allocated. This would also delay providing funds to those most in need.

### **Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service**

None

### **Information about this decision statement**

#### Call-in

Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;

Call-in can be requested by any six non-executive members of the Council.

However, if at any point during a municipal year the total number of opposition councillors is six or less the total number of non-executive members required to call-in a decision shall be the total number of opposition councillors less two.

Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).

The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

Yvonne Rees  
Chief Executive