

**Cabinet Member Decision Notice - Public**

**Part A** – to be provisionally completed prior to the meeting and finalised after the meeting following agreement with the decision maker.

1. **Decision Maker:** Cabinet Member for Resources, Enterprise and Economic Development, Councillor Graham Swift
2. **Date of the Decision:** Wednesday 6 April 2022
3. **Subject (title and description):** Harrogate Borough Council: The Council Tax rebate 2022/23 scheme
4. **Did the decision maker declare an interest?** No
5. **Lead Officer:** Revenues, Welfare and Customer Services Manager, Julie Gillett
6. **Was all or any part of the report exempt?** No

**If yes, is there an Exempt Decision Notice?** N/A

7. **The Decision:**  
The Cabinet Member for Resources, Enterprise and Economic Development confirmed he had seen the draft policy prior to the meeting and that it was noted that there had been no material change. His decision was to agree the recommendations outlined in the report as detailed below:

To agree the support for energy bills: council tax rebate 2022/23 scheme as detailed in Appendix 1 of report.

To delegate authority to the Revenues, Welfare and Customer Services Manager to make scheme amendments which are required to give effect to any revised government guidance.

8. **Reasons for the Decision:**  
Local Authorities will be provided with funding from Government to support eligible households with rising energy costs. Whilst the eligible criteria and grant amounts are set by Government it is important to have a written scheme for Harrogate Borough Council outlining these and the administration of grant applications to provide clarity to individuals.

To approve delegated authority to the Revenues, Welfare and Customer Services Manager to make scheme amendments would enable the scheme to be updated promptly should there be any revised government guidance, such as changes in eligibility criteria, providing clarity to households.

9. **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**  
This scheme is a Government requirement for Local Authorities to administer and there is no alternative option.

To not approve the Council Tax energy rebate scheme was rejected as it would miss the opportunity to provide financial support to those faced with rising energy costs.

To have no written scheme in place would mean there is no visible guidance of eligibility criteria and outline of the approach taken by the Council in determining when a rebate is to be paid or not. This was rejected as it could cause some uncertainty for individuals.

To not approve delegated authority to the Revenues, Welfare and Customer Services Manager to make scheme amendments was rejected as it would cause delay in reflecting any revised government guidance, such as changes in eligibility criteria into the scheme and would cause uncertainty.

10. **Is this a Key Decision:** No

**If yes, please state Forward Plan reference number:** N/A

**Part B – Key Decisions Only – *to be completed by Democratic Services***

11. **Is the decision subject to call in:** No

12. **End of the Call-In Period:** N/A