

**Council Tax Rebate Energy Scheme (Discretionary) Eligibility Criteria** The proposed scheme is to make a one off payment of £150 based on the following eligibility criteria as at 01.04.22:

	<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>
<b>A</b>	An initial application window is open for 6 weeks. For non-automatic awards, no grant will be paid unless an application is completed and verification checks satisfied
<b>B</b>	The property is valued within bands E-H
<b>C</b>	The property is someone's sole or main residence and be liable for rent or council tax on 01.04.22 (Backdated liability rules apply as for the main scheme*)
<b>D</b>	It is a chargeable dwelling, or in exemption classes: N – Properties occupied wholly by students S – Properties occupied only by a person under 18 years old U – Properties occupied only by a person who is severely mentally impaired W – An annexe or self-contained part of a property which is occupied by an elderly, disabled or severely mentally impaired relative of the resident(s) living in the main part of the property
<b>E</b>	It is a chargeable dwelling and the liable tax payer receives a discount or exemption as a result of leaving care
<b>F</b>	The property is valued within bands E-H and the liable person was in receipt of income related state benefits on 01.04.22. Income related state benefits are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)</li> <li>• Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)</li> <li>• Pension Credit – Guaranteed or Savings elements</li> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Housing Benefit</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit</li> <li>• Working Tax Credit</li> <li>• Universal Credit</li> <li>• Council Tax reduction</li> </ul>
<b>G</b>	The property is within bands A-H and on 01.04.22 was classed as a house in multiple occupation for council tax purposes, and the tenant is named as liable to pay energy bills directly to their supplier and is in receipt of income related state benefits on that date. Income related state benefits are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)</li> <li>• Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)</li> <li>• Pension Credit – Guaranteed or Savings elements</li> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Housing Benefit</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit</li> <li>• Working Tax Credit</li> <li>• Universal Credit</li> <li>• Council Tax reduction</li> </ul>
<b>H</b>	The property is valued in band F-H and receives a reduction in banding due to entitlement to disabled relief

<b>I</b>	Only 1 grant, main or discretionary will be paid per household
<b>J</b>	Consistent with the main scheme, no award will be made to a local authority, corporate body such as a housing association, the government or government body

Backdated liability\*

<b>Appendix 2</b>
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- Eligibility should be determined based on the position at the end of the day on 1 April 2022. Where a council has reason to believe that the information they hold about the valuation list, liable taxpayer(s) or residents' circumstances in respect of 1 April 2022 is inaccurate, they should withhold the payment and take reasonable steps to determine the correct information.
- Where records relating to the liable taxpayer(s) or residents' circumstances in respect of 1 April 2022 are retrospectively updated, councils should take reasonable steps to pay or clawback payments.
- Where the property band recorded on a valuation list is amended retrospectively to 1 April 2022, for example as a result of a successful appeal made to the Valuation Office Agency that concluded after this date, councils are not required to pay or clawback payments. The exception is where a property is a new build and awaiting an official banding from the VOA. In these cases, eligibility should be determined based on the official band subsequently allocated by the VOA, where this has an effective date before or on 1 April 2022.
- Where a review, proposal or appeal pre-dating the announcement on 3 February 2022 is successful after 1 April 2022 and as a result, a property would have been eligible for the rebate, councils may wish to provide support using their Discretionary Fund.
- Where a review, proposal or appeal was made after the announcement, a decision will not be made by the VOA before 1 April and therefore taxpayers will not be eligible.

At the end of the initial 6 week application window, an assessment will be made based upon any remaining funds to either open a further window for applications with additional eligibility criteria, or to split the remaining funds and make a further award to those properties that fall within bands A-D in consultation with S151 Officer and Portfolio Holder.