

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 13 JUNE 2022

### PART I - DELEGATED

#### 9. DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE SCHEME (DCTER) (DoF)

##### 1 Summary

- 1.1 The government has announced a package of support known as the Energy Bills rebate to help households with rising energy bills.
- 1.2 This includes discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate scheme.

##### 2 Details

- 2.1 This report outlines the proposals for the Three Rivers DCTER scheme.
  - 2.1.1 This Discretionary scheme is intended to support energy bill payers who are not eligible under the terms of the core scheme. It can also be used to provide targeted 'top-up' payments to the most vulnerable households in Bands A-D.
  - 2.1.2 The funding for this scheme totals £205,050.

##### 3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Three Rivers households in receipt of council tax support on 1 April 2022 will receive a top-up award through this discretionary scheme for their main or sole residence.

Council tax bands A-D

Households in receipt of council tax support in council tax bands A-D will receive an award of £150 from the main Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme (CTER). In addition it is proposed that households in bands A-D in receipt of Council Tax Support (CTS) on 1 April 2022 will receive a top-up award from the DCTER scheme of £40.00.

Council tax bands E-H

It is proposed that households in Three Rivers in receipt of CTS on 1 April 2022 in bands E-H receive an award from the DCTER scheme of £150.00.

The maximum combined award of CTER and DCTER in respect of any household is £190.00.

- 3.1.1 The cost of 'topping-up' recipients of Council Tax Support (CTS) in Bands A-D by £40.00 and awarding £150.00 to recipients of CTS in Bands E-H would be £197,780. It is proposed that the remaining £9,270 be used for residents who have moved into the district after 1 April 2022, who reside in a Band A-D property, and have not received a £150.00 payment under the standard scheme from another authority. The funding would allow for 61 applications of this type only.

##### 4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 None specific.

##### 5 Financial Implications

5.1 None specific.

**6 Legal Implications**

6.1 None specific.

**7 Equal Opportunities Implications**

7.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	No
--	----

**8 Recommendation**

8.1 That the Committee are asked to agree the DCTER scheme criteria as detailed in 3.1 and 3.1.1 of this report.

Report prepared by: Jane Walker, Head of Revenues and Benefits