

## URGENT INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION – 31 August 2022

Decision by	Councillor Mahfouz – Decent Living Incomes
Subject	Implementation of the Discretionary Energy Bill Rebate Schemes (DEBRS) to support for households affected by increase in energy costs
Portfolio	Decent Living Incomes
Authority	Constitution part 3 Section 3

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Decision:	<p>That the Portfolio Holder:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) notes that the government has established a discretionary support scheme for households affected by the increase in household energy costs, referred as ‘Discretionary Energy Bill Rebate Schemes’ (DEBRS) and that it is for the council to determine how to allocate these, within the principles set down by the government.</li><li>ii) approves the allocation principles of the grant scheme contained in this paper in Section 5 under the conditions laid down by central government guidance.</li><li>iii) authorises the Chief Finance Officer, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Decent Living Incomes and Inclusive Economy along with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to determine and amend the award criteria for the schemes, as may be appropriate in response to circumstances and further guidance from central government.</li><li>iv) authorises the Chief Finance Officer to determine which households shall receive rebates under the Discretionary Energy Bill Rebate Scheme, in accordance with the council’s approved Award Criteria and the allocation principles, up to the level of the funding provided for the scheme by Government to the Council (see paras. 3.4 and 4.1.3 in the report).</li></ol>
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Reason for decision  
And Options  
Considered:

Please see report  
attached

The increase in household energy bill costs had affected almost all households in Ealing. The government had introduced a number of support measures including a £150 rebate to all households in Band A to D (subject to qualifying conditions). In addition, there was also a discretionary scheme to support those households most affected.

This new scheme supported households during the qualifying period as announced by central government.

The rebate costs covered in the paper were funded by central government.

This scheme was part of series of measures introduced by the

government to address the rising costs of energy bills. These included;

- A one-off payment of £650 to around 8 million households that were in receipt of Universal Credit, tax credits, pension credit and other means-tested benefits;
- A £400 one-off grant in October to every household – that did not have to be paid back unlike the previous £200 announced earlier this year;
- A one-off disability cost-of-living payment of £150;
- A one-off extra winter fuel payment of £300 to 8 million pensioner households;
- The triple lock would continue to apply to state pensions;
- Benefits from September would be uprated by this year's CPI;
- And the household support fund would be topped up with £0.5bn in October.

Date of Implementation: 1 September 2022

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Report published 31 August 2022

Opposition consulted 31 August 2022

Decision recorded 31 August 2022

Decision published 31 August 2022

Call-in deadline Urgent decision exempt from call-in

Reason for urgency The need to put the scheme into payment as soon as possible, in order to meet the deadlines for the scheme and to ensure that hardship was relieved urgently.

Please see report attached

Reason for lateness was that funding had only recently been confirmed and following that it was necessary to put in place appropriate ICT and payment mechanisms.

The decision should subsequently be reported to 1st November full council.

Urgent, pursuant to the following procedures:

Rule 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (impractical to comply with Forward Plan requirements) the chair of OSC and the Leader of the Opposition agreed that the making of the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred.

Rule 5 of appendix to the Access to Information Procedure Rules (urgent ICMD). Cabinet members had been consulted, and the Leader of the Opposition had agreed that the proposed decision was urgent.

Rule 16 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rule (special urgency and exemption from call-in) chair of OSC and the Leader of the Opposition agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.

The decision would be reported for information to the next available full meeting of council.

Cabinet member's signature



Date 31.08.2022

Councillor B Mahfouz  
Cabinet Member - Portfolio – Decent Living Incomes

Officer recording decision .....*K. Broomfield*.....Date... 31.08.2022

Democratic Services

Keith Broomfield