

## **Haringey Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme**

The funding available under this scheme is £1,464,750. This scheme is designed to support vulnerable people and individuals on low incomes who pay Council Tax for properties in Bands E to H, or who do not pay Council Tax. Payments will be made as one-off grants of up to £150 to households eligible under the criteria set out in this policy.

The discretionary fund also offers 'top-up' payments to the most vulnerable households in bands A - D (including those on Council Tax Support), and offers support in excess of £150 per household for people who are in properties in Bands E-H, or do not pay Council Tax where they have an energy bill or meter in their name.

Allocations from the discretionary fund must be made by 30 November 2022. No awards can be made after this date.

The discretionary scheme has three elements:

1. **Direct Payments** where the council can identify that a person qualifies for the award as at 1/4/2022 without an application being completed
2. **Application Payments** where the council cannot identify whether a person qualifies for the award without an application being completed
3. **Top-ups** where there are unallocated funds remaining after all Direct and Application payments have been made. Top-ups will be made to CTRS claimants in bands A-H by means of a credit to their Council Tax Account or by another means of the council's choosing.

Application Payments will be determined, and successful applications will be paid an amount up to £150 (this may be less than £150) once all applications have been assessed following the closing date. The closing date will be determined by the Council and publicised on its website. The Council may re-open the scheme to applications where time and funding allows further applications to be made.

Direct Payments of £150 will be made as soon as practicable by Post Office cash voucher, with the option of BACS payment in lieu of voucher. Where cash voucher or BACS payment is not claimed within three months or such shorter period as may be determined by the Council, the sum will be credited to the Council Tax account.

### **Discretionary Scheme Eligibility Criteria**

Only people whose sole or main residence is in Haringey are eligible.

#### **1. Direct Payments**

##### **Properties in Bands E-H**

The Discretionary fund will support households living in property in bands E-H in Haringey where:

1. The property is the person's sole or main residence.
2. The person who is liable to pay the council tax (or would be where the property not exempt) is not a local authority, a corporate body or other body such as a housing association, landlords, the government or governmental body
3. They meet at least one of the additional qualifying criteria set out below:

Additional qualifying criteria:

## Appendix 1

1. The person is in receipt of CTRS
2. The person has been identified by the Council as having a “shortfall” in income using LIFT data
3. The person is a care leaver
4. The property is an exempt dwelling in the classes N (students), S (under 18), U (SMI), W (annex)
5. The property has a disability reduction (SI 1992/554)

Where the liable person meets all of the base criteria and at least one element of the additional criteria set out above, they will automatically be eligible for £150 Discretionary Energy Payment which will be paid by cash voucher with the alternative of a BACS payment. A credit will be made to their Council Tax account where voucher expires uncashed.

### **2. Application Payments**

#### **Houses in Multiple Occupation/shared accommodation**

For households in shared accommodation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 where the claimant has an electricity meter in their name but does not have a Council Tax bill in their name.

The property must be the claimant’s sole or main residence.

The claimant is not a local authority, a corporate body or other body such as a housing association, landlords, the government or governmental body.

#### **New Households**

For new households which came into being after 1st April 2022 where the claimant is not entitled to a Council Tax Rebate payment in Haringey or elsewhere and have a Council Tax or energy bill or energy meter in their name.

The property must be the claimant’s sole or main residence.

The claimant is not a local authority, a corporate body or other body such as a housing association, landlords, the government or governmental body.

#### **Claim process:**

The claimant must make a claim on the Council’s application form and evidence:

- Their identity
- They are the occupier of the property
- There is an energy bill or prepayment meter in their name at that property

### **3. Top-up Payments**

Top up payments may be made to people in receipt of Direct Payments subject to available funding where:

- They meet the qualifying criteria for a Direct Payment as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and have been paid that award
- They are in receipt of CTRS at the time the Top-up payment is awarded.

Top-up payments may be made, subject to available funding, at the Councils discretion to any recipient of Direct or Application award suffering exceptional hardship in line with the Councils Discretionary Housing Policy.