

Haringey Discretionary Council Tax Support Fund Policy

Background

The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has issued guidance to Local Authorities

The total funding available for Council Tax Support Fund is £719,854 including the mandatory scheme. As at 1st April 2023, the mandatory scheme has cost £264,055 leaving £455,799 for the discretionary element.

This scheme is designed to meet the requirements of a discretionary scheme set out in the guidance and to maximise the impact of the limited funding available by targeting help towards the residents with the lowest income.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable to zero for as many people as possible.

Discretionary Scheme Eligibility Criteria

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

The discretionary scheme can be awarded to Council Taxpayers who are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction Scheme on 1st April 2023.

All awards relate to the year 2023/24 only.

The awards will be made on or around the 1st May 2023. On this date there must be:

1. A liability to pay Council Tax from 1st April 2023
2. A current live CTRS award, or an award of CTRS up to the end of Liability
3. A balance due which is net of discounts and exemptions, main Council Tax Support Fund award of £25, CTRS. Any payments made, or credits brought forward, will be ignored in calculating the net balance

The award will be equal to the net balance as described above up to and including a maximum balance, the aggregate of which is equivalent to the funding available.

The scheme has been modelled using a suggested maximum balance of £230. This figure may change when the final allocations are calculated. No award will be made where the balance is more than the maximum sum as described.

The award once made is final and will not be revised up or down regardless of any changes except:

1. Where the liability for Council Tax subsequently ends before 1st April 2023
2. Where there is fraud or error
3. At the discretion of the Revenues Manager in exceptional circumstances

S13A discretion

Any amounts of government funding remaining can be used at the discretion of the Revenues Manager to alleviate hardship in line with the s13A policy.