

Policy and Resources Committee - Wednesday 9th February, 2022 7.00 pm

Addendum to Agenda Item 7: Business planning - The Barnet Plan, Budget 2022/23, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-26 and Budget Management 2021/22

Recent Government announcements around the cost of energy bills have centred on two policy interventions – one being a £400 deferral of payments on bills to be repaid over a longer period by all bill payers, expected to commence in October 2022. The other policy is a Council Tax Rebate scheme whereby bill payers for properties in Bands A-D will be eligible for a £150 payment, alongside a discretionary scheme to support those who are either exempt from Council Tax or those in Band E-H properties that are in financial vulnerability. Full guidance on how to design and administer this scheme had not been received at publication of this report. Upon receipt of this guidance, the Executive Director of Resources will design, implement and manage a scheme in line with the guidance for the benefit of those residents that are eligible. To facilitate this scheme, officers expect the council to receive Section 31 grant to offset the loss of Council Tax collection and potentially additional new burdens funding to administer this scheme. At the time of publication, there is no expectation that this scheme will have an adverse impact on the budget setting process for 2022/23 or across the MTFS.

Recommendation 24: Recommend to Council to Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer) to design, implement and manage and take all associated action to enable a scheme upon receipt of full guidance from Government.