

Household Support Fund Policy

This paper sets out the rules of the Household Support Scheme for Bath and North East Somerset council. It is intended to act as a guide for Officers in deciding applications.

Amount of Award

Each Household who qualifies under this policy will be entitled to one award of £250.00. This will be provided via a pre-paid debit card which will be posted to the applicant upon making a successful application. The council has limited funding for this scheme and once this funding is exhausted no further awards will be made, whether or not an applicant meets the conditions of entitlement. The scheme will end on 31.03.2022.

Conditions of use

The cards must only be used to pay for energy-related expenditure. This includes the payment of gas and electricity suppliers, topping up of key-meters, purchase of other household fuels and the payment of services related to such products or services, for example boiler maintenance. The cards may also be used for purposes ancillary to keeping warm, for example to purchase clothing and bedding. Any unauthorised use of cards will result in immediate suspension and where necessary the council will recover funds from residents who knowingly misuse their cards. Successful applicants must keep receipts of expenditure and will have to provide these to the council on request. All cards must be used in full by 31.03.2022.

Applications

Applications must be made by web-form on the council's public website or by telephone to the Benefits team on 01225 477777. Applicants must provide as a minimum evidence of their earnings and pensions, bank statements for all accounts which they hold and evidence of their energy bill or proof that they need help with energy costs.

Conditions of entitlement

Only one award per household will be allowed. To qualify for this scheme households must be in receipt of one of the following benefits.

Income Support

Income-based Jobseekers Allowance

Income-related Employment Support Allowance

Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit

Housing Benefit

Universal Credit

Or on a low income*

AND

Has capital of less than £2,000

AND

Can demonstrate that they require help with their energy costs.

* For the purpose of this scheme, "low income" means combined household earnings or pensions of less than £350 per week. "Household" means a person or unit of people who live together and all normally contribute, whether equally or not, to household bills.

Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants may ask the council to reconsider their application within 14 days of a decision, however any right of review is limited to whether the terms of this policy have been applied correctly.