



Elmbridge

Borough Council

... bridging the communities ...

Household Support Phase 3 Policy 2022/23

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In response to the Cost-of-living crisis Surrey County Council have been allocated additional funding as part of a third tranche of funding under the Household Support Scheme which provided a further £500 million to Councils across England. This tranche of funding needs to be spent by 31 March 2023.
- 1.2 As a result, Surrey County Council (the initial recipients of the funding), have allocated £217,000 to Elmbridge.

2. Eligibility for the Household Support Fund 3

- 2.1 Of the £217,000 provided by Surrey County Council, £10,000 will be given to a local charity, the remaining balance will be allocated to those eligible under this Policy during December.
- 2.2 The Council will use the information gathered for the energy rebate payments, the discretionary energy rebates and the household support fund 2 to make payments for Household Support Fund 3.
- 2.3 In order to be eligible for Household Support Fund 3 the following must apply:
 - I. Be in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support on the 14 November 2022;
and
 - II. Have a member of the household who is in receipt of qualifying Disability Benefit on the 14 November 2022.
- 2.4 Based on the eligibility criteria set out in 2.3 there are approximately 2,000 households who will be eligible for the payment, which will mean that the payment will be £100.
- 2.5 Payment will be made directly to the bank account or credited to the Council Tax account by the 23 December 2022.
- 2.6 We will write to households who may be eligible, where we have not contacted them before for previous payment.

3. Payments

- 3.1 Included within the energy rebate and household support fund payment earlier in the year the Council reserved the right to make payments using the information we had gathered during processing these payments to make future payment. We will automatically pay those households who are eligible using this information.
- 3.2 Should funding of a similar nature become available from Government or Surrey County Council, for example the recently announced extension of the Household Support scheme into 2023, the Council also reserves the right to use the data from this scheme to make payments, subject to the Household meeting the relevant eligibility criteria.
- 3.3 Except in exceptional circumstances, or by the publication of an amended policy the use of this data to make future payments will apply until 31 March 2024.

4. Fraud

- 4.1 By accepting the household support funding, you confirm that you meet the eligible criteria for the Discretionary funding. The Council and the government will not tolerate any household falsifying their records or providing false evidence to gain access to the Household Support funding. A person(s) who provides false information or makes false representation in order to benefit from the Discretionary Fund may be guilty of fraud under the Fraud Act 2006. Any payment will be subject to claw back if paid in error.
- 4.2 The Council will use all available tools to identify potential fraud, before, and after the payment. If you are making a claim, you are consenting for the Council to share the data on the application form for the purposes of validating the claim with any appropriate organisations. If you do not consent to the sharing of the information the application will be deemed invalid.

5. Appeal rights

- 5.1 Whilst there is no formal right of appeal except by judicial review, in the interests of natural justice and to eliminate the risk of administrative error, applicants may seek a review of the decision from the Council.