

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Revenues and Benefits
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	13 June 2023
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Energy Bills Support
<b><u>Report Author:</u></b>	Wayne Connell
<b><u>Chief Officer:</u></b>	Isla Newcombe
<b><u>Contact Details:</u></b>	waynec@aberdeencity.gov.uk

### **UPDATE:**

All UK households with a domestic meter automatically received a £400 non-repayable discount from their energy supplier. However, there are a significant number of people who do not have a domestic meter but pay for energy costs. In order to address this, the UK Government introduced two schemes:

- Alternative Fund - Energy Bills Support Scheme for households that do not have a direct contract with a supplier. £400 awarded per successful application.
- An additional Alternative Fuel Payment for households and Non-Domestic properties that use fuels other than gas to heat their properties. An additional £200 per successful application.

The UK Government co-delivered these funds between local authorities and The Department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS).

Customers had to apply online using the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. BEIS undertook initial checks of applications and those that met the criteria were passed to Local Authorities to verify the addresses and make the award to successful applicants. The UK Government was responsible for the communications campaign.

BEIS provided Aberdeen City Council with £1,362,000 of funding to distribute. The scheme launched on 27 February 2023 and closed for new applications on 31 May 2023.

There was a lower than expected take up of the funds. On 05 May 2023, BEIS requested local authorities issue further awareness of the scheme to Care Homes and Park Homes. Care Homes and Park Homes were identified as the area's most likely to qualify for the funds. All Care Homes and Park Homes in the Aberdeen City area were contacted on 11 May 2023.

Prior to the additional communications being issued a total of £76,400 had been distributed.

	<b>£400 Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund</b>	<b>£200 Alternative Fuel Alternative Fund</b>
Applications received	174	126
Applications awarded	133	116

There had been a slight increase in the volumes of applications received after the additional targeted communications. The final total of £102,800 funds were distributed.

	<b>£400 Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund</b>	<b>£200 Alternative Fuel Alternative Fund</b>
Applications received	255	139
Applications awarded	193	128