

FAQ's – Council Tax Rebate

As you may have heard in the news, the Government have announced a package of support called the 'Energy Bills Rebate' to help households with their rising energy costs during the 2022/23 period.

The **Energy Bills Rebate** includes:

- A £150 rebate for households in England in property Bands A to D
- A discretionary fund to help those households in property Bands E to H

We have provided some questions and answers to help you understand the 'Energy Bills Rebate' schemes and how the council will be dealing with them.

£150 Rebate for Bands A to D

How do I know which 'Band' my property is in?

- To check which band your property is in, you should be able to find this information on your bill, if not you can visit [Check your Council Tax band - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

How will I know if I'm entitled to the rebate?

For every household that occupies a property, and which meets all the eligibility criteria below, a payment will automatically be made to any current and any new, direct debit customers as soon as practicable after 1st April 2022. A one-off payment of £150 will be paid to the liable Council Tax payer.

Eligibility Criteria

- You must be liable to pay Council Tax at the property on or before 1st April 2022
- Your property is valued in council tax bands A – D. This includes property that is valued in band E but has an alternative valuation band of band D, as a result of the disabled band reduction scheme;
- It is someone's sole or main residence;
- It is a chargeable dwelling, or in the following exemption classes
 - Class N – a dwelling occupied entirely by students
 - Class S – a dwelling occupied wholly by persons under the age of 18
 - Class U – a dwelling occupied wholly by persons who are severely mentally impaired
 - Class W – an annex flat or similar self-contained property occupied by a dependent relative of a person living in the main part of the building; and
- The person who is liable to pay council tax (or would be, were the property not exempt) is not a local authority, corporate body or other body such as a housing association, the government or government body.

How will the rebate be paid to me?

The rebate will only be paid by Bank Transfer. The easiest way is to have a Direct Debit set up to pay your Council Tax. We will be able to pay the rebate by bank transfer direct to your bank account. You will not need to do anything.

If you pay your Council Tax by any other methods, or don't have a bank account, you will need to set one up. There is help available to decide which account is best for you. Please visit Martin Lewis's website for more information [Top Basic Bank Accounts: Bad credit option, no fees - MSE \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](#)

This table shows how the rebate will be paid depending on your circumstances.

How do you pay your Council Tax?	How will the rebate be paid to me?
Direct Debit	The rebate will be paid by bank transfer into your bank account. You do not need to do anything
Payment by any other method, eg; debit card, cash, BACS transfer or standing order	We cannot pay the rebate by cash or cheque payments. You will need to open a bank account if you don't have one already or you will need to provide your bank account details when we open the application process. NB: The date for application is yet to be confirmed, so please watch our website for more details.

What if I have an overdraft?

If you have an overdraft, the £150 rebate cannot be used by the bank towards clearing your overdraft. This rebate is for you to earmark for essential bills, ie your energy bills, and therefore you have the right to choose how the money into your account can be used. This is called the 'First Right of Appropriation'. There is more information on the council's website so please follow the link

[First Right of Appropriation | Housing benefits | Nuneaton & Bedworth \(nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk\)](#)

How long will it take before the rebate is paid?

Priority will be given to people who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit. We will start to make the rebate payments to these people from April 2022. If you want to set up a Direct Debit payment for your Council Tax, and you have access to the NBBC Portal, you can now set up a Direct Debit through the 'change payment method' [View your accounts or claim online | NBBC Portal | Nuneaton & Bedworth \(nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk\)](#).

If you do not wish to register to view your accounts online via NBBC Portal, but would like to set up a Direct Debit, you can download a Direct Debit mandate [Paying by direct debit | Paying my council tax | Nuneaton & Bedworth \(nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk\)](#) and return it via email to billing.section@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

For people that pay their Council Tax by any other method, e.g. debit card, cash, BACS transfer, or by Standing Order, you will need to provide your bank details once we open up the application process. Please keep watching our website for details of when this process will be open and how you can make an application.

If you do not have a bank account, then you will need to open one before we can make the rebate payment to you. Please visit [Top Basic Bank Accounts: Bad credit option, no fees - MSE \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](#) for more information about which account would be best for you.

Will I have to pay the money back?

No, you will not have to pay the money back. It is not a loan.

The Discretionary fund – Bands E to H

We will provide details of the fund and how it will be distributed in due course.

Unfortunately, we do not have all the details to be able to share with you at this time.