

Response from Adrian Slaughter (Energy and Carbon Manager at West Berkshire Council) - Jun22-Ac1 – Energy Bills

The changes to the Energy Cap in October 2022 will not impact what schools in the Council's Central Energy Contract are paying for their energy (p/kWh) as this currently fixes the individual energy unit rates and standing charges at the start of each financial year and these then remain the same for the entire year. Any schools outside of the Central Energy Contract need to be aware that, depending on their type of supply contract ('Fixed' or 'Variable'), the changes to the Cap could potentially impact them. Those on 'Fixed' contracts, should be protected from any rises in unit rates (p/kWh) until their contract term ends. Those on 'Variable' contracts will likely see an increase in their unit rates (p/kWh).

The Government have also recently announced the Energy Bill Relief Scheme for businesses, and our understanding is that public authorities are potentially eligible for this scheme. Exact details are still unclear as to how this would work and the Bill still has to formally be passed by Government, but we do know that this is a temporary 5 month scheme that could potentially reduce the energy unit rates for eligible 'business' customers. The Council is liaising with Crown Commercial Services and its energy suppliers to clarify matters as soon as possible.