

Tamworth Borough Council

Helping You Through The Credit Crunch

Free advice for landlords and tenants

Our Private Sector Renewal Team runs a free drop-in advice service for Landlords and Tenants every Wednesday from 9.00am - 12noon at Marmion House. The sessions are an ideal opportunity to meet the team and get valuable information and advice.

For more information contact Terry Davies on 07831 385272

Tamworth Bond Scheme

We run a Bond scheme that aims to help landlords find genuine applicants in need of housing; and applicants who want to rent but cannot afford the deposit.

If you are looking for a rented property and can demonstrate that you have the ability to pay monthly rent we can provide a written contract of guarantee to the landlord in place of a deposit. This guarantee will cover against rent arrears, loss or damage to the property to the value of up to eight weeks rent and will last for six months.

This gives the tenant the opportunity to save for the deposit once they've moved into the property and to pay it to the Landlord at the end of the Bond guarantee. For more information contact:

Homelessness Prevention Officer,
Housing Advice Team
Telephone: 01827 709378
Fax: 01827 709376
Email: enquiries@tamworth.gov.uk

Debt Advice

We offer a debt advice service in partnership with Tamworth HomeStart that is available to any household that contains a dependent child or is in receipt of Local Housing Allowance or housing benefit. The service is designed to enable any household struggling with debt to take control of the issues and tackle the debt whilst understanding which debts need to be paid as a matter of priority and which creditors can be asked to take reduced payments.

Make cash from your empty home

We have a variety of schemes to help find suitable tenants and provide management services for landlords. We also offer free advice on renovation work in your home and preparing for renting or selling your property. For further information please contact the Private Sector Housing Team on 01827 709372 or email privatehousing@tamworth.gov.uk

Don't let your rent payments get out of hand

If you are having difficulties meeting your rent payments the Council are here to help and advise. It is important that you contact your Area Housing team immediately if you are struggling to pay your rent.

East Area Team: 01827 709506

North Area Team: 01827 709491

South Area Team: 01827 709500

You can see a Housing Officer to discuss the problems you are having with your rent payments. Your Housing Officer will arrange for you to pay what you owe in regular manageable accounts. They will take into account how much money you owe and how much money you have coming in to the house after you have paid priority bills. They will help you to plan your finances and advise you of any benefits you could claim.

It is important that you get help as soon as possible in order to avoid getting too far behind with your payments.

If you know you have a problem paying your rent contact our Income Team on 01827 709514.

Preventing Homelessness

If you find yourself in housing difficulties or facing the possibility of being made homeless we might be able to help.

Households that are able to avoid homelessness have better health, employment and educational prospects than those who go through the homelessness process.

There are lots of ways we can help:

Housing Advice

Our Housing Advice Team handles enquiries and initial applications for housing (the Housing Register), transfer requests from Council tenants, nominations to other Councils or Housing Associations and also deals with people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. We can also provide information on all of the council's housing services.

For more information contact the Housing Advice Team on 01827 709459 or email: enquiries@tamworth.gov.uk

For Home Start contact: 01827 62400

Telephone Tamworth Police on 08453 30 20 10



Save money through being energy efficient

The government offers grants towards the installation of a range of energy efficiency measures through the Lower Carbon Buildings Programme. The Council offers further support, in addition to the government grants, for the installation of solar-based technologies.

The Lower Carbon Buildings Programme provides grants up to a maximum of £400, or 30% of the relevant eligible costs (whichever is the lower). Tamworth Borough Council will contribute a further 50% of the balance of the Lower Carbon Buildings Programme grant on top of this, up to a maximum of £1000. (www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk)

For more information about becoming more energy efficient, contact the Tamworth Energy Efficiency Advice service on freephone 0800 512 012. For details on applying for Renewable Energy Grants, please telephone the Housing Department on 01827 709470.

Get help to keep your house warm

Tamworth's Affordable Warmth Programme aims to provide warm and healthy homes to all local residents. There are a number of grants available to help people in Tamworth live in a warm, comfortable home without suffering financially.

If you own your own home or rent it from a private landlord, you may be eligible for a grant under the Government's Warm Front Scheme. Warm Front Grants can be given for work connected to any energy saving measure, including the provision of gas or electric central heating. Grants are available up to £2,700 (or £4,000 if oil central heating is involved).

Households in Tamworth have the opportunity to access the EnergyWise Direct scheme for discounted energy efficiency measures, such as loft and cavity wall insulation, and high-efficiency boilers. EnergyWise Solar is a Council-backed extension to EnergyWise Direct that offers substantial discounts and grants to householders to install solar water heating systems.

British Gas offers tax rebates for Tamworth residents who invest in Home Insulation measures. Contact 0845 9717731 for details, quoting TBCT.

Grants for cavity wall and loft insulation are also available through Enact Energy's HEAT Project. Contact 0800 093 4050 for further details.

The Tamworth Energy Efficiency Advice service can give you advice on all of these initiatives. For more information, contact freephone 0800 512 012.

More information is also available online:

Warm Front Scheme:

www.warmfront.co.uk

EnergyWise Direct:

www.savenergy.org/homeowner/energywise_direct.html

EnergyWise Solar:

www.savenergy.org/homeowner/energywise_solar.html

HEAT Project: www.heatproject.co.uk

Sanctuary Scheme



We run a Sanctuary Scheme to assist the victims of domestic violence and hate crime. It is provided by a partnership of

agencies including Tamworth Borough Council, Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.



General Enquiries - (01827) 709709

www.tamworth.gov.uk

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