

COVID-19 Financial Help

Housing Benefit

Local Housing Allowance rates have increased to the 30th percentile from 01/04/20.

Affects existing Housing Benefit customers in private rented accommodation and is paid by your local authority.

This has now been automatically increased and a new notification letter issued to you if this applies to you.

The new rates can be found on our website – go to **Benefits** and select **Local Housing Allowance**.

Other **Housing Benefit changes in circumstances** should continue to be reported to the Benefits section <https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/change-circumstances>

Council Tax Reduction

Council Tax Hardship Fund. This is a reduction of up to a maximum of £150 off an annual council tax bill for 2020/21 for current working age customers in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

If you already receive Council Tax Reduction then you will automatically be assessed for entitlement to this and re-billed as necessary. We are currently looking at this and hope to make payments shortly.

Council Tax Reduction. If you are currently not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction – you can find out more about this scheme here. <https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction-scheme>

To make an online application for it here <https://tamworth-hbnc.egovhub.net/HBNewClaim/launch>

Self-employment income Support Scheme. 80% of taxable trading profits up to £2,500 per month (initially for 3 months). This is a taxable grant from HMRC – they will contact you if you are eligible.

Universal Credit

If due to COVID-19 you have a reduction in income, you should apply for Universal Credit help. Please follow this link to <https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/universal-credit>.