

Housing and Council Tax Benefit



Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit is a national welfare benefit which is administered by the local authority on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It provides assistance with the payment of rent to those who are on a low income.

When you move into a Council house for the first time the local Area Housing Team will help you to complete Housing and/ or Council Tax Benefit forms.

From April 2008, a new Housing Benefit Scheme known as Local Housing Allowance was introduced for those renting from a private landlord.

Council Tax Benefit

Council Tax Benefit is a national welfare benefit which is administered by the local authority on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) It provides assistance with the payment of Council Tax for those who are on a low income and can be awarded in two formats:

- **Main Council Tax Benefit** - available for people liable for Council Tax for the property they live in;
- **Second Adult Rebate** - available for people liable for Council Tax for the property they live in with another adult on a low income.

Only one format can be awarded and this can only provide assistance with the payment of Council Tax and does not cover other charges such as water and sewerage.

Am I entitled to Housing and Council Tax Benefit?

Housing and Council Tax Benefit are both means tested benefits which means that the amount that you can get will depend on your household's circumstances.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit can both be awarded unless your circumstances deem that you do not qualify for one benefit but you qualify for the other. As well as many other situations, you may not qualify for either Housing and/ or Council Tax Benefit if you are not held as liable for rent and/ or Council Tax, respectively.

When you submit an application for Housing and Council Tax Benefit, an assessment of your income, savings and capital, liability for rent and/or Council Tax and the financial circumstances of any other person in your household will deem if you qualify for any Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

Your circumstances may mean that you do not qualify for the full amount which you are required to pay in rent and Council Tax however you may be entitled to some assistance.

If you feel you may be entitled to Housing and Council Tax Benefit speak to your local Area Housing Office. When calling into the office or by telephone, you should have details of your household financial circumstances to hand as we can use them to work out roughly what you may qualify for.