



12 May 2020

Council Tax hardship grant

As part of its response to Covid-19, the government recently announced it would provide local councils, including Uttlesford District Council, with money to support people and households who need it in their local area.

More than 1,000 residents living in Uttlesford in receipt of LCTS, who are working age, will receive a further hardship reduction of up to £150 on their 2020/21 Council Tax bill. There is no need for residents to contact the council – the reduction will be automatically applied to existing claims and any future claims that are made up to 31 March 2021. A revised Council Tax bill will be issued which will show the amount listed as 'Covid-19 Hardship Payment'.

If your Council Tax bill is less than £150 after your LCTS award, the amount you receive will be adjusted to reflect this and your bill will be reduced to zero. If your bill is already zero, as you are in receipt of full LCTS, you will not receive any award from the grant.

Cllr Neil Hargreaves, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Budget, said: "These are worrying times and some residents may have concerns over their financial position. This additional government-funded grant means we can offer more support to those who really need it.

"For anyone who is worried about making their council tax payments, please do speak to us to see what support is available – please do not suffer in silence."

If you are struggling to pay your Council Tax and are not already claiming LCTS, you can make an application through the council website at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lcts.

If you are already claiming LCTS, or if you are not eligible and still suffering financial hardship which is affecting your ability to pay your bill, you can apply for help through our Exceptional Hardship Fund (EHF). Full details can be found at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ehf.

If you wish to discuss your circumstances before applying for EHF or have questions about the fund, please contact our Revenues Collections Officer on 01799 510345 or via email to revenues@uttlesford.gov.uk (please quote your name and full address with any correspondence).

For more information on what other financial support may be available to residents at this time, visit www.uttlesford.gov.uk/benefits.

ENDS

NOTES

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