

**! Important Council Tax
information inside**

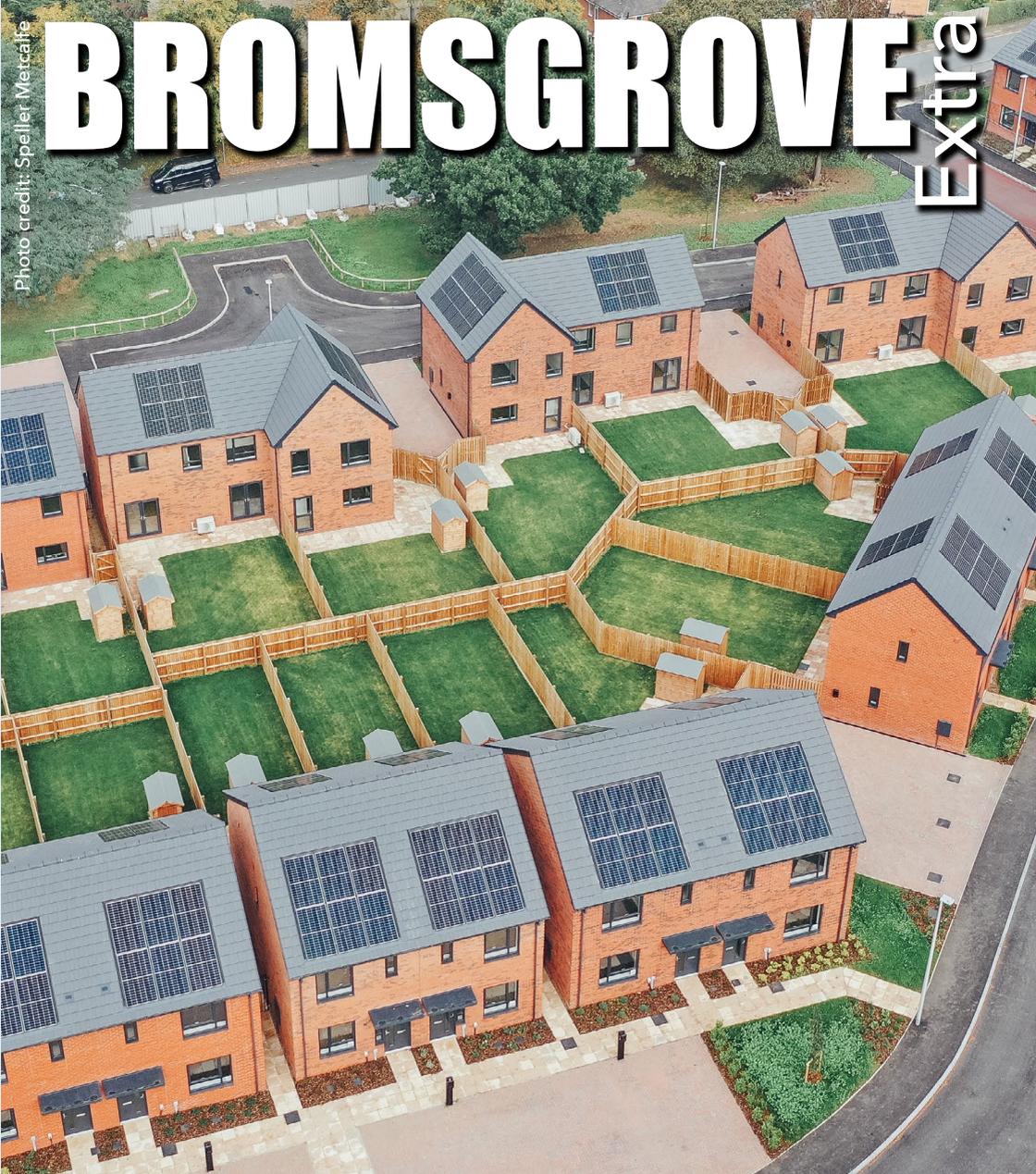


**Bromsgrove
District Council**

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

BROMSGROVE **Extra**

Photo credit: Speller Metcalfe



How your money improves your district



A message from
The Leader of
Bromsgrove
District Council,
Cllr Karen May

From running your
local parks to cleaning
your streets, managing
everyone's planning
applications and lots more

besides, the district council does a lot more
than just empty your bin - and all for just £4.81
a week.

This year some major projects are coming up,
on top of the council's usual work.

That includes getting people living in the new
low-carbon homes we had built on our old
head offices on Burcot Lane in Bromsgrove.
We're delighted with the results there, and for
the 60-plus families who will be moving in. The
council didn't take the easy option there and
just sell that land off to a developer. Instead,
we had it done it to the kind of high standard
we want to see in the district - and in so doing,
created a new long-term asset for the council
and our residents.

Two Bromsgrove town centre regeneration
projects, both part of the council's 2040 Vision,
are also live. That's the pending works to clear
away the former fire station and library at
Windsor Street so it can become a residential
development, and the catalysing commercial
and cultural development at St John Street,
on the last part of the former Market Hall site
next to Waitrose, which has received planning
permission.

Our new partnership with Zest is also bringing
new electric vehicle charging points to land we
own in the district, as we do our bit to improve
charging infrastructure and support people
who want to choose electric. That's at no cost
to the council - all the investment is coming
from Zest.

It continues to be a privilege to lead this
council, whose members and officers work
hard to improve our district and provide good
quality local services.

Useful contacts:

Main Council Contact: 01527 881288
Emergency out of hours: 01527 871565

Benefit enquiries: 01527 881213
benefits@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Business Rates: 01527 881671
business.rates@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Council Tax: 01527 881671
council.tax@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Environmental Services:
*Including - bin queries, domestic waste,
business waste, assisted collections,
garden waste, septic tank and cesspool
emptying, litter, landscape and trees,
street cleaning, MOT testing and more.*
01527 881188
bsu@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Freedom of Information: 01527 64252
foi@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Parking: 01386 565009
bdcparking@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Planning Enquiries:
01527 881770
newplan@
bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Revenues: 01527 881671
revenues@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Room Bookings: 01527 64252
roombookings@
bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

**Starting Well Partnership (support for
families 0-19yrs):** 01905 520032

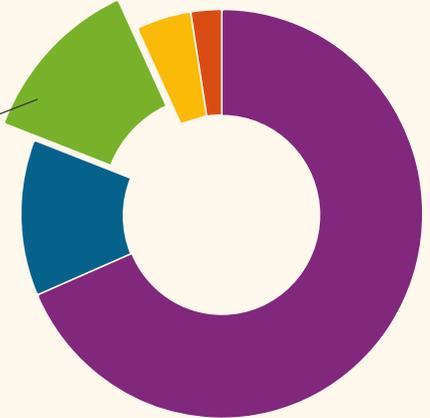
Worcestershire Regulatory Services:
*Including - Licensing, Food Hygiene,
Taxis, Environmental Health, Dog
Wardens, Pest Control etc.*
More details available here:
www.worcsregservices.gov.uk
01905 822799
enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk

Where your money goes

Bromsgrove District Council only keeps about 11p of every pound you pay in Council Tax, which helps pay for the services it provides. The rest is charged by other agencies for their services: police, fire and rescue, county and parish councils, and the government.



***AVERAGE BAND D COUNCIL TAX**
Total £2,195.85 | 4.7% increase



How we will spend your money

This year the district council will spend £14.406m on delivering the council's key priorities:

- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Housing Growth
- Work and Financial Independence
- Improved Health and Wellbeing
- Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Green Thread
- Financial Stability
- Organisational Sustainability
- High Quality Services

How that's financed

The money to pay for those services comes from three main sources: 11.4% of your Council Tax, business rates set by the government, and funding from the government.

Net corporate resources	£ million
Net Business Rates	3.392
Net Council Tax	9.499
Government Funding	1.515
Total	14.406

Capital spending

Capital spending is the money we spend on things like buildings and vehicles.

This year will see the council spend £3.1m on refurbishing some of the big fleet of vehicles that we use to collect rubbish to keep them in good condition (£12m in total over 5 years), improving play areas in your parks (£364,000) and the pavilion, car parking and pathways at Sanders Park (£250,000), updating car parking machines for motorists (£125,000), providing grants to help people who are disabled make changes to their home (£900,000), and keeping the systems that store your data up to date and secure (£177,000).

The money to pay for capital projects comes from a range of government funding sources, borrowing, or the council's own resources.

Highlights for 2024/25

Burcot Lane homes come online

The council's £10.3m development of its former head offices is complete, and the 61 low-carbon homes are now heading into the hands of their new owners. Six will be privately owned, bdht will own 12 for social rent and six more for shared ownership, and the council's new housing company Spadesbourne Homes will rent out 37 through local letting experts.



Photo credit: Speller Metcalfe

The BWMF (that's the Bromsgrove Ward Member Fund)

New for this year, district councillors will each have a £2,000 fund to spend on things they believe would benefit communities in their local ward. The council has set aside £234,000 to pay for the BWMF for the next three years. Ask your local ward member about it - it's their decision, within the rules of the scheme. You can find their details at bromsgrove.gov.uk/councillors.

Improved online services and systems

With more people using the internet to get more things done more often than ever before, we're building better ways for you to access services online, while protecting the council and all our residents' data from cyber criminals. Look out for some small but significant improvements this year to how our digital services work.

Regenerating more council-owned land

Planning permission has been granted for a major development in Bromsgrove, to replace the temporary 'BirdBox' space next to Waitrose. That seeks to regenerate the area into an open-plan community pavilion building for daytime, evening, and weekend use, a high-quality office building with rooftop restaurant and food and drink outlet on the ground floor, and new public space around a re-naturalised Spadesbourne Brook. The work, which could start this year, accounts for the lion's share of Bromsgrove's £17.1m Levelling Up Fund award that's also set to clear the site of the old library and fire station on Windsor Street so it can become new housing.

The temporary 'BirdBox' in 2020 shortly before Levelling Up funding was secured to regenerate the land.



Artist impression of the proposed new community and commercial development.



Cost of Living



We know times are hard right now. That's why the borough council and lots of other local agencies are working together to connect you to the surprising range of support that is available.

Even if you don't claim any benefits, you may be entitled to support you weren't aware of - and not just monetary support, but good advice from legitimate sources you can trust.



For an easy-to-find collected list of key support and advice services that are available from a range of local partners, head to:
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/costofliving

We regularly update the information there, so you will often find new things alongside services that are already available from us or a range of other agencies - all with a focus on supporting people in the borough with the cost of living.

Let's work together: Please share information with friends, neighbours and colleagues





Support to live independently at home from NEW Lifeline.

- Portable pendant to call for help in an emergency at any time, day or night
- Monitoring Centre Operators will receive the call and assist
- A digital Lifeline unit with inbuilt connectivity. Ideal for those who have a recently upgraded phone service or who don't have a telephone line.
- Many extra features available: fall detection, emergency location pinpointing, mobile version that even works away from home



Contact us on 01527 534060
or lifeline@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk



Certified Organisation

**Do you have problems with your rented
accommodation in Bromsgrove?**



**Poor living conditions
Harassment
Cold and damp
Illegal eviction
Tenancy rights
High bills
No smoke alarms
Overcrowding**



WE CAN HELP YOU

For advice and assistance call

01527 881601

Alternatively you can visit:

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/report-it



**Bromsgrove
District Council**

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

A safe, secure service if you're unable to use public transport

- | Shopping
- | Visiting
- | Leisure
- | Travel connections



Monday to Friday, district-wide

Easy registration by phone, email, or website
01527 585893 | burt@burtrides.org.uk | www.burtrides.org.uk



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

SIGN UP FOR THE Garden Waste service

**EASY, CLEAN
& CONVENIENT**

20 collections, March - November

Just £54.10 per bin

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/gardenwaste



- 240l wheeled bins collected fortnightly
- Sign up for one or more bins
- Service runs w/c Feb 27 or Mar 5 until w/c Nov 25 or Dec 2 (depending on your bin day)



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Building Control made simple



A Customer focussed service driven by **Quality** not Profit.

Publically accountable

Readily available surveyors/same day services

Local knowledge

Fast and efficient service with fully qualified
surveying teams

Do you have knee,
hip or back pain?

escape pain

Join our ESCAPE-pain class, meet other people living with osteoarthritis and learn:
- information and simple ways to better manage knee, hip, and back pain.
- A gentle, individualised exercise programme that matches your needs and pace

Class Details



Venue: Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre



Day/ Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays



Time: 2:15pm to 3.15pm

Duration: 12 sessions over 6 weeks

Starting: Courses running throughout 2024

SCAN TO
REGISTER



How do I sign up?

Complete a registration form at
ESCAPE-pain - bromsgrove.gov.uk
or call 01527 881404



SUPPORTED BY
Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

We work alongside your Doctor
to help you to feel better

**UNEMPLOYMENT • LONELINESS • MONEY • FAMILY LIFE
BENEFITS • WELLBEING • HOUSING • RELATIONSHIPS**

Social Prescribing can link you to free and low-cost
services to help you overcome issues you may be facing.

Contact us on 0300 303 5291 or rbccg.spbromsgrove@nhs.net to
reach a friendly Social Prescribing link worker and find out more.

Social Prescribing: helping you to feel better

We offer support
to adults aged 18+



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Bring
photo ID
to vote in
elections

Don't have ID?

Apply for free voter ID.

For more information, visit

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

Kerbside Recycling Quick Guide



You can recycle



- 1. Plastic bottles**
e.g. Shampoo bottles
- 2. Plastic pots**
e.g. Yoghurt pots
- 3. Plastic tubs**
e.g. Quality Street tub
- 4. Plastic trays**
e.g. Meat trays and fruit punnets
- 5. Aerosols**
e.g. Deodorant cans
- 6. Food tins**
e.g. Baked beans
- 7. Drinks cans**
e.g. Fizzy drink cans
- 8. Cartons**
e.g. Tetra Pak
- 9. Cardboard**
Flatten boxes, no glitter
- 10. Paper**
No glitter or foil wrap
- 11. Glass bottles**
All colours
- 12. Glass jars**
All colours

All items must be rinsed clean and be loose in your green bin so it can be sorted

If it isn't on the list above we can't accept it in the green bin

You cannot recycle



- 1. Food waste**
- 2. Nappies**
- 3. Sanitary items**
- 4. Crisp packets**
- 5. Plastic wrappers**
- 6. Black plastic**
- 7. Wet wipes**
- 8. Tissues, kitchen and toilet roll**
- 9. Polystyrene**
- 10. Animal litter and bedding**
- 11. Plastic bags**

Put all these things in your black bin.

Why it's important that we try to put the right things in the right bin:

- Items cannot be recycled if they are in the wrong bin;
- If you put non-recyclable items (i.e. food waste) in your green bin you may contaminate other items;
- It makes the recycling harder to sort and process.

Remember: Right thing, right bin. Clean & loose.

LET'S
WASTE
LESS

For more information on what to recycle and how to reduce your waste, visit: [letswasteless.com](https://www.letswasteless.com)

Worcestershire Starting Well Service 0 - 19



Starting Well Partnership
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

Groups for Parents & Carers

Being a parent can be tough! We all need a little support along the way. We have a range of behaviour and development support groups for parents and carers with children pre-birth to 19 years. Call our friendly Starting Well team to find out more on **01905 520 032**.

Childcare Choices Looking for help with your childcare cost?

Please go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or call us on **01905 520 032**.

Need support breastfeeding?

For further information and details on the peer support group, contact the Starting Well Breastfeeding Support Team via email: whcnhs.breastfeedingsupport@nhs.net or visit the Starting Well website www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk

Healthy Start Vitamins



FREE Healthy Start vitamins if you're pregnant and until your child is 12 months old - or if they're receiving Healthy Start vouchers, until they're four. To apply and find out more, go to www.healthystart.nhs.uk

To find out more
Find us on social media:

@StartingWellIRB
 @BgroveandRditch

Scan the QR code to visit our website
startingwellworcs.nhs.uk



Volunteering opportunities

We are looking for volunteers and peer support workers to support the delivery and administration of our groups and services. Our invaluable volunteers are important team members and benefit from developing confidence and skills, with full training and ongoing support. For an informal chat contact Peer Support & Volunteer Co-ordinator Ruth Harper on **07833933791** or ruth.harper@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/volunteering

Telephone Advisory Service (TAS)

To speak with a member of the Health Visiting team for advice on any worries or concerns you might have about your child's development up to age 5, including feeding, behaviour, toileting and sleeping, just call TAS on **01905 520 032** (Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm)

Your local hubs are:

Bromsgrove -
Pear Tree Family Hub,
Broad St, Bromsgrove,
B61 8LW

Redditch -
Holly Trees Family Hub,
St Stephen's First
School, Mabey Ave,
Riverside, Redditch,
B98 8HW

We can help signpost you to local services.
Tel: **01905 520 032**



Understanding your...

Pregnancy | Baby | Child | Child with additional needs | Teenager | Relationships | And more

Pre-paid online courses for you!

- Visit www.inourplace.co.uk
- Enter code **PARENTSROCK**
- Begin learning

www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk

EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

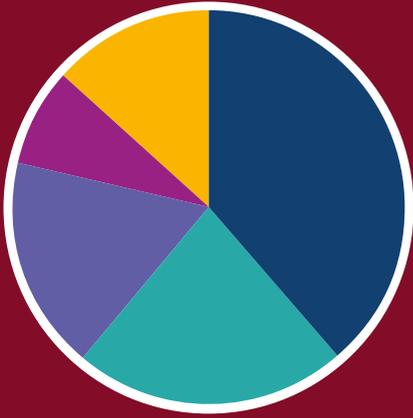
Provided by:



In partnership with:



Worcestershire County Council Budget 2024/25



2024/25 expenditure

- Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities (**£168m**)
- Children's Services (**£97m**)
- Economy, Infrastructure and Environment (**£76m**)
- Home to School Transport (**£35m**)
- Support Services including Finance and Legal (**£57m**)

Total: **£433m Net budget**

We also have a capital programme and continue to invest in what you have told us is important:

A total of **£34m** to improve roads and **£6m** to improve pavements this year.



£78.8m on improving and building new schools including Foxlydiate in Redditch.

£20.2m on walking and cycling improvements include Hampton and Kepax bridges.



£53m on cutting congestion and infrastructure improvements including A38 in Bromsgrove.



£17.3m to improve rail station facilities.

£4.6m to continue with our street light improvement programme.





The Government is providing additional funding and we are reforming the way we work to deliver savings and efficiencies. However, this is not enough to meet the budget pressures and therefore we need to increase Council Tax to be able to adequately fund these services.

Our Council Tax will though remain one of the lowest of any comparable County Council in the country.

The additional funding will mean we can continue to deliver vital children's and adult social care to protect the most vulnerable in our society, on which we now spend over 70% of our revenue budget.

It will also enable us to maintain our commitments to invest in the priorities that you have told us are most important. These include better roads and pavements, tackling congestion and improving public transport alongside investments in the economy, environment and extra school places.

Kind regards,
**Councillor Simon Geraghty, Leader of
Worcestershire County Council**

I know the last year has been a difficult one for many. The Council has faced similar challenges too from the impact of inflation on costs and increasing demand for services which have added significantly to our budget pressures.

With more vulnerable people needing our support, and with the cost of this care increasing significantly, we have needed to increase our budget this year to ensure we can continue to provide these essential services.

With a gross budget from Council Tax, Government Grants and other income we will be spending a record amount to help protect the most vulnerable people in our communities:

£295m for those who need Adult Social Care in 24/25



£177m to improve the lives of Children and Young People



£91m to support people to live independently for longer through Public Health and Communities

-  www.worcestershire.gov.uk
-  [/YourWorcestershire](https://www.facebook.com/YourWorcestershire)
-  [@worcsccl](https://twitter.com/worcsccl) and [@worcstravel](https://twitter.com/worcstravel)
-  [@YourWorcestershire](https://www.instagram.com/YourWorcestershire)
-  Search Worcestershire County Council



Council Tax Valuation

Most owned or rented dwellings are subject to Council Tax, the amount you pay depends on the value of your property. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has placed each dwelling in one of eight valuation bands. These bands are based on the price a property would have fetched if it had been sold on 1st April 1991. Any increase or fall in a dwelling's value since then will not affect your Council Tax band.

Please note that the VOA has assessed the value of the properties and not the council. Your Council Tax bill tells you which band your dwelling is in. You can appeal against your valuation if:

- There is a material increase or reduction in the value of the dwelling
- You start or stop using part of the dwelling for business
- You have just moved in, but you must appeal within 6 months of your move
- The listing officer alters the band

If you think your band is wrong, please visit [**www.voa.gov.uk**](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

Discounts

The full Council Tax bill assumes that two adults live in a dwelling. If you are the only adult living in a property, your Council Tax bill will be reduced by 25%. You may also be eligible for a 25% discount if you or someone that lives with you falls into one of the following categories:

- A full time student, student nurse, apprentice, youth training trainee, or a non-British spouse/dependant of a student
- A permanent resident in a hospital or care home
- A person who is severely mentally impaired
- A person resident in a hostel or night shelter
- A person who is 18 or 19 years old and has just left school or college
- A resident care worker who is paid no more than £44.00 per week to provide care to the person they live with.
- A person caring for someone with a disability who is not their spouse, partner or child under 18 years of age.
- A member of visiting overseas forces, certain international institutions or certain religious communities.
- A person who is in prison (except those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine)
- A diplomat or member of an international organisation with UK headquarters

Empty Home Discounts

A discount of 100% is applicable for the first 30 days in which a property is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished. After this 30 day period the charge will be 100%. Entitlement to the discount begins on the date the property first becomes unoccupied and unfurnished and in order for a new period of discount to be granted there must be a minimum period of occupation of 6 weeks.

Long Term Empty Property Premiums

Dwellings that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for one year, and are not subject to a statutory exemption, will have an additional premium of 100% council tax applied to them. Properties that have been empty for over five years will have an additional premium of 200% added to the council tax bill. Properties that have been empty for 10 years or more will have an additional premium of 300% added to the council tax bill

Exempt Dwellings

The list below is a summary of properties that are exempt from Council Tax:

- Left empty by students or school leavers
- Left empty by someone who has gone into prison or moved into a hospital, a residential care home or elsewhere to receive care
- Left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to provide care for someone
- Empty and waiting for probate or letter of administration to be granted. Exempt for up to six months after the grant is made, then 100 percent charge applies
- Left empty by someone who is bankrupt or properties repossessed by a mortgage lender
- Occupied only by people under 18
- Occupied only by people who are severely mentally impaired
- Occupied only by students, or student halls of residence
- An unused caravan pitch or boat mooring
- Properties where occupation is prevented by law or by the actions of a local authority
- Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion
- Part of a dwelling, such as an annexe or granny flat, which is empty and may not be let separately to the main home
- Occupied by members of visiting forces, certain international organisations, a foreign diplomat, or member of an international organisation with headquarters in the UK.
- Owned by the ministry of defence and held available for service personnel
- Any part of a property, such as an annexe or granny flat, which is occupied by a dependant relative of the family resident in the other part. The relative must be either; over 65 years of age, severely mentally impaired, or substantially and permanently disabled.

Disabled Person Reduction

If you or someone who lives with you is disabled and because of their disability needs extra space in your property, such as an extra kitchen or bathroom or extra space because they use a wheelchair indoors, then you may be entitled to a reduced Council Tax bill. Contact us for more information.

National Discount for Annexes

If your property includes a main home and an annexe then you would usually pay Council Tax for both the main home and the annexe. You can now receive a 50% Council Tax discount for the annexe provided that it is either used by the resident of the main home as part of their home or it is used as the sole or main residence of a relative of the person living in the main home.

Local Council Tax Support

Council Tax Support – can provide help with some or all of your Council Tax. Whether you get help depends on your personal circumstances and your income and savings. Generally the more income and savings you have the less likely you are to qualify for help.

To claim you will need to complete a claim form, available from our website.

Discretionary Reductions

The council has a discretionary power to reduce the amount payable. The Council Tax can be reduced by any amount and the power can be exercised on a case-by-case basis or by determining a local discount.

A decision to reduce Council Tax using this power would usually only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Claiming Discounts, Exemptions and Reductions

If you think that you are entitled to a discount, exemption or reduction and it is not shown on your bill then please contact us.

If your bill shows a discount, exemption or reduction to which you are not entitled then please let us know straight away. If you do not let us know then you may have a penalty of £70, if you continue to fail to provide us with the correct information then you may have to pay a further penalty of £280.

Instalment Scheme

Your Council Tax is normally payable in 10 instalments; you have the right to request payment in 12 instalments. If you would like to pay in 12 instalments then you must request this in writing and the request must be received by the 15th April, however we recommend that you contact us by telephone to discuss switching.

Appeals

You can appeal if you consider that you are not liable to pay Council Tax – for example because you are not the resident – or because you believe your property is exempt. You can also appeal if you believe that we have made a mistake by not giving you a discount, or reduction to which you believe you are entitled.

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of Council Tax and you should continue to pay as requested in your latest Council Tax demand. If your appeal is successful any overpayment will be refunded to you.

Any appeal must be made in writing, we will then respond to you within 2 months, if you disagree with our response, or if we do not reply within 2 months then you may appeal directly to the Valuation Tribunal. Details are available on request from us or the Tribunal Office, Hepworth House, Unit 2 Trafford Court, Doncaster, DN1 1PN.

Adult Social Care Information

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. (“Adult social care authorities” are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

Financial Information

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to gross expenditure of the billing authority, precepting authorities and any body that has issued a levy on the billing authority or the precepting authority is available at **www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council-tax-info**

A hard copy of the information is available where requested in writing.

Enquiries About Your Bill

If you have any questions about your Council Tax bill:

Write to: Revenue Services, Bromsgrove District Council, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8DA.

Call: 01527 881671 between 9am and 5pm (10am and 5pm Tuesday)

Email: **revenues@bromsgrove.gov.uk**

Visit Website: **www.bromsgrove.gov.uk**

MORE POWER

NOW LIVE:
System upgrade
for 2024

at your fingertips

Tap to connect **DIRECTLY** to our front line street cleaning staff in your area



REPORT ISSUES

REQUEST SERVICE

STRAIGHT TO PEOPLE ON THE GROUND

IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER.

Just head to

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



Bromsgrove
District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk