

**!** Important Council Tax  
**■** information inside



**Bromsgrove**  
District Council  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

How **your** money  
improves **your** district



**BROMSGROVE** Extra



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

I'm pleased to once  
again be able to  
introduce good value,  
sustainable district council  
services for you for the year ahead.

Despite all the well-reported  
challenges facing the public sector,  
with demands on services increasing  
along with the cost of providing those  
services, Bromsgrove District Council  
remains in a consistently stable  
position with a balanced budget.  
We are proud to support you and all  
our communities in hundreds of ways.  
Parks, play areas, woodlands, street  
cleaning, housing, planning, licensing  
- the list goes on. We really do a lot  
more than just empty your bin, and  
all for a good value £4.95 a week this  
year.

Of course we have one eye on the  
government's announced plans  
for the reorganisation of local  
government. However that may  
unfold over the coming months and  
years, please be assured that the  
services you receive from us are, and  
will remain, 'business as usual' as we  
go about making a better Bromsgrove  
for everyone.

**For more useful  
numbers, turn to  
page 17**

## Useful contacts:

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

**Benefit enquiries:** 01527 881213  
[benefits@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

**Business Rates:** 01527 881671  
[business.rates@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:business.rates@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

**Council Tax:** 01527 881671  
[council.tax@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:bsu@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

**Freedom of Information:** 01527 64252  
[foi@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:foi@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

**Parking:** 01386 565009  
[bdcparking@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:bdcparking@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

**Planning Enquiries:**  
01527 881770  
[newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

**Revenues:** 01527 881671  
[revenues@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

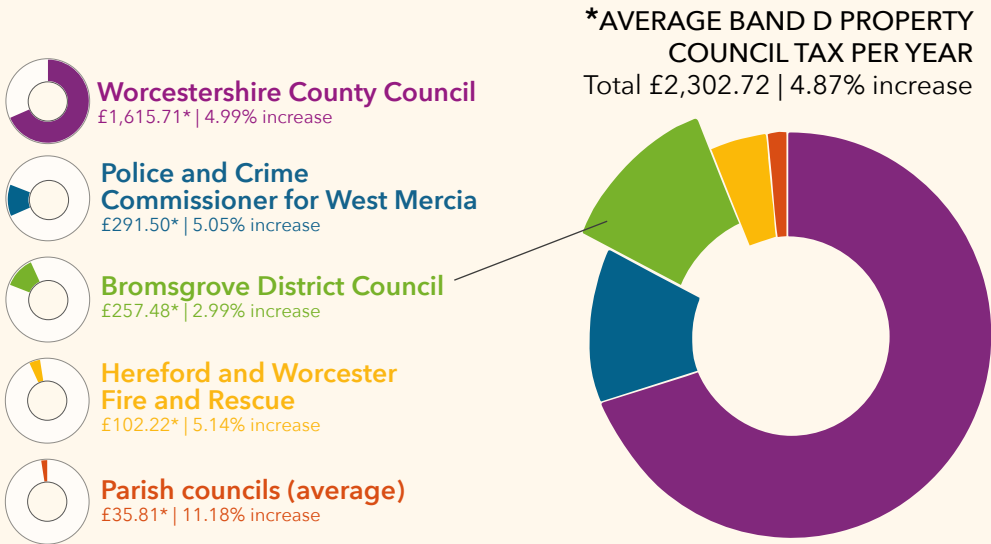
**Room Bookings:** 01527 64252  
[roombookings@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:roombookings@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

**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](http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk)  
01905 822799  
[enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk](mailto: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.



## How the district council will spend your money

This year the district council will spend £48.01m on services to deliver the council's key priorities of Economic Development, Housing, Environment, and Infrastructure.

## How that's financed

The money to pay for those services comes from three main sources: 11.18% of your Council Tax, business rates set by the government, and funding from the government.

Net corporate resources	£ million
Net Business Rates	4.684
Net Council Tax	9.877
Government Funding	0.678
Total	15.239

## Capital spending

Capital spending is the money we will spend on things like buildings and vehicles. This year a £8.1m capital programme will bring improvements across the district, including the ongoing commercial and community hub in Bromsgrove (£3m this year), buying new bin lorries to replace lorries at the end of their useful life (£1.3m this year), replacing every wheeled bin in the district (£2.2m), preparing for the introduction of food waste collections in 2026 (£902,000), improving play areas (£166,000) and maintaining public buildings (£100,000), car parks (£100,000), and footpaths (£75,000).



## Ground broken on regeneration



Work is under way on the council's biggest single current project, the regeneration of the corner of Market Street in Bromsgrove, next to Waitrose, into a new commercial and community hub.

The area is on its way to becoming an open-plan community pavilion building suitable for use in the daytime, evening, and weekend, a high-quality office building with rooftop restaurant plus food and drink outlet on the ground floor, and some new public space around a re-naturalised Spadesbourne Brook.

It's intended to encourage more community and businesses activity in the area, bringing new vibrancy to catalyse further regeneration on the High Street.

The work accounts for the lion's share of the town's £17.1m Levelling Up Fund award, received from the government as part of post-pandemic economic recovery efforts. That money is also being used to clear the site of the old library and fire station on Windsor Street, so it can be regenerated into new housing.



### Other ways your money improves the district

- Our teams maintain the trees, hedges and cleanliness of hundreds of miles of local streets. Let's keep Bromsgrove District looking good!
- New improved tools are now in place to combat the illegal dumping of waste in our communities. Remember: nobody can leave rubbish on the street. It's against the law. Check out [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/report-tip](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/report-tip) for more.
- Our housing services support people facing homelessness and those whose private landlords aren't doing what they should.



For all these and more, visit  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

# Who is responsible for keeping Bromsgrove clean?

## If you said 'everyone', congratulations!

We are all responsible for our waste. That's the law, and it's clear on how our waste should be managed.

The council must set out HOW household waste is collected: the types of bins used, what materials can go in each, and where and when they should be placed for collections.

### **GUIDANCE ONLY:**

for the full statutory notice, Bromsgrove District Council Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 46 (1) - Waste Collection, see page 18

Households must then FOLLOW that. It's that simple! In our district that means:

Bins must be put out at your property boundary, fully closed with no excess waste outside them, by 7am on your collection day, and taken back in within 24 hours of collection.

Bins must contain the correct materials, or they will not be emptied, and it will be your responsibility to fix the issue for your next collection. This is because wrong materials in any bin pollute the whole process for everyone.

Green recycling bins can contain everything listed opposite.

Grey waste bins can contain your non-recyclable waste, but they cannot contain garden waste, electricals, car parts, hazardous chemicals, or DIY rubble, all which you will need to dispose of yourself. You can do this at the tip, through a properly licensed waste service like our great value Garden Waste service or other registered waste carrier, or via home composting.



**Failure to follow the rules can result in not just inconvenience for you, but fines of up to £1000!**

**We all play a vital role in keeping the district clean and protecting our environment. Let's all do our part. We all win when you use the right bin.**

## YOU CAN RECYCLE - GREEN BIN



**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 & fruit punnets

**5. Aerosols†**

e.g. Deodorant cans

**6. Food Tins†**

e.g. Baked beans

**7. Drinks Cans**

e.g. Fizzy drinks cans

**8. Cartons†**

e.g. Tetra Pak®

**9. Cardboard**

(Flatten boxes, no glitter)

**10. Paper**

(No glittery or foil wrap)

**11. Glass Bottles†**

All colours

**12. Glass Jars†**

All colours

\*All colours except black

† You can leave tops/lids/caps on

**All items must be rinsed clean & 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.**

# Worcestershire County Council Budget 2025/26



## 2025/26 expenditure

- Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities (**£183m**)
- Children's Services (**£107m**)
- Economy, Infrastructure and Environment (**£89m**)
- Home to School Transport (**£44m**)
- Support Services including Finance, Legal and loan repayments (**£73m**)

Total net budget: **£496m**

We also have a capital programme of £370m over the next three years, in addition to the investment of £120m in 2024/25. Through this programme, we will continue to invest in what you have said is important which includes:

**£64m** on highways to improve our roads and pavements including flood alleviation.



**£173m** on schools and school places, including **£30.1m** additional funding for special education needs.



An additional **£71m** on transport and connectivity.



**£3.6m** on broadband and digital connectivity to support residents and businesses.



The last year has been an exceptionally challenging year for the council. We, along with most other county councils, are facing the pressure of more people needing the essential services we have to provide and the cost of those services are rising significantly.

The key areas which this affects are adult and children's social care, home to school travel and Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) provision which collectively account for over 70 per cent of our spend.

These pressures are made even worse by the rise in national insurance contributions which are being faced by all suppliers and charities we work with coupled with a low level of increase in Government grants.

We have made, and continue to make, significant savings where we are able to do so. We will also continue to lobby Government for additional support for the services we have to provide as I don't believe that you, our residents, should be asked to cover these costs through local council tax.

Whilst we are having to increase council tax this year to pay for these vital services, our rates remain one of the lowest of all comparable county councils in the country.

Kind regards,

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

**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:**

**£321m** for those who need Adult Social Care.



**£199m** to improve the lives of children and young people including Home to School Transport.



**£98m** to support people to live independently for longer through Public Health and Communities.



Worcestershire  
**FOSTERING**

# LOCAL CHILDREN URGENTLY IN NEED OF LOVING FOSTER FAMILIES

The shortage of fostering families is a national crisis, and we are seeing more and more children coming in to care who need a stable and loving home.

There are lots of different types of foster care that you can do: long term, short term, buddy and specialist. Not all are full time, our buddy scheme asks that you care for a child one weekend a month and one week in the summer holidays. You can still work alongside caring for a child too.

“

We couldn't have birth children, but we knew we wanted to give love and stability to less fortunate children.

We had a lot of love to give and no one to give it to. We adopted the baby we initially fostered and continue to foster more children.

”

“

I know it sounds really cheesy, but it was to make a difference. I have two birth children and fostering allows me to be available for all the children in my family. I'm here when he comes home from school. It's my life.

”

What you do with your life could forever change someone else's.

**Find out more about fostering on our website:**

**[worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering)**

**or give us a call: 0800 028 2158**



Scan here for  
more information  
about fostering

# Worcestershire Family Hubs

**Family Hubs are centres that offer support services for families and meet the needs of the local community. Your local Family Hub can support you in a variety of ways, and connect you to local services available to you and your family.**

**Here to help Monday to Friday, 9am - 4.30pm,  
please contact us or visit the Hub.**

**Your local Hubs are:**

## **Bromsgrove:**

**Pear Tree Family Hub,**  
Broad St, Bromsgrove, B61 8LW.  
Telephone 01527 835775.

## **Redditch:**

**Holly Trees Family Hub,**  
St Stephen's First School, Mabey Ave, Riverside, Redditch, B98 8HW.  
Telephone 01527 61360.



**We can help signpost you to local services.**



## **Looking for help with your childcare cost?**

Please go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)  
or call us on **01905 520 032**.

## **Healthy Start**



## **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](http://www.healthystart.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](mailto:ruth.harper@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) [www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/volunteering](http://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/volunteering)



**Herefordshire  
and Worcestershire**  
Integrated Care System



**Herefordshire and  
Worcestershire**

# Use the right service



## Self-care

Hangovers. Coughs.  
Colds. Bruises and  
grazes. Small cuts.



## GP advice

Persistent symptoms.  
Chronic pain. Long-  
term conditions.



## NHS 111

Feeling unwell?  
Need medical advice?  
No GP to call?



## Minor Injuries

Breaks and sprains.  
Minor burns and  
wound infections.  
Cuts and grazes.



## Pharmacy

Minor ailments.  
Bites and stings.  
Upset stomach.  
Medication advice.



## A&E or 999

Choking. Severe  
chest pain. Breathing  
difficulties. Blood  
loss. Stroke. Sepsis.

Want to learn more about services in your area?  
Visit [www.hwics.org.uk/our-services](http://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services)





# Providing peace of mind 24 hours a day 365 days a year

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](mailto:lifeline@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)



Certified Organisation

**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](mailto:rbccg.spbromsgrove@nhs.net) to reach a friendly Social Prescribing link worker and find out more.

***Social Prescribing: helping you to feel better***



**Bromsgrove  
District Council**  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

# READY TO QUIT SMOKING?

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP



**WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, QUITTING CAN  
BE EASIER THAN YOU THINK.**

Get free support from Worcestershire's stop smoking service.



**CALL 0800 772 0307  
or 01905 928185**

Need help signing up?  
Any Worcestershire library can help.



**SCAN HERE**

**WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/STOPSMOKING**



**worcestershire**  
county council

GET ACTIVE QUIT SMOKING MEET PEOPLE STAY SAFE ONLINE



FREE WEEKLY SESSIONS

GET ACTIVE

BE HEALTHY

HAVE FUN

### BROMSGROVE VENUES:

- Blackwell Community Hall
- Bromsgrove Rugby Club
- Catshill Village Hall
- Father's Barn, Rubery

Scan here!



More venues coming soon:

[worcestershire.gov.uk/HealthyWorcestershire](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/HealthyWorcestershire)



MANAGE YOUR WEIGHT GET ACTIVE HAVE FUN QUIT SMOKING

# Working together for you.

At times life can be a little tough,  
for whatever reason.  
But advice & support is available.

**Act On Energy:** Freephone 0800 988 2881 • [actonenergy.org.uk](http://actonenergy.org.uk)

**Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest:**

01527 570490 • [ageuk.org.uk/brwf](http://ageuk.org.uk/brwf) • [enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk)

**Bdht:** 0800 0850 160 • [contactus@bdht.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bdht.co.uk)

**Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN):**

01527 60282 • <http://barn.org.uk/cost-of-living>

**Bromsgrove District Council:** 01527 881288 • [bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://bromsgrove.gov.uk)

**Citizens Advice Bromsgrove & Redditch:** 0808 278 7890 • [cabr.org.uk](http://cabr.org.uk)

**Family Hub:** 01527 835775 • [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhub](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhub)

**Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service:**

Free Home Fire Safety Visit 0800 032 1155

**Libraries:** 01905 822722 • [worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries)

**NewStarts:** 01527 882410 / 0121 679 2072 • [newstarts.org.uk](http://newstarts.org.uk)

**Worcestershire County Council:** 01905 765765 • [worcestershire.gov.uk/contact](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/contact)

**Need mental health support?**

**Worcestershire Safe Haven:** 01905 600 400 (6pm - 1am, last calls 12:20am)

**Samaritans:** 116 123 (free, 24/7, 365 days)

**NHS:** 111 & select 'Mental Health' option

For much more, visit [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/working-together](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/working-together)

**Many people experience damp and black mould in the home at some point.** Even in the most well looked after properties, mould will grow in colder spots, especially in colder weather.

The natural moulds in our environment love it when moisture from warm, humid air in our homes condenses onto colder and poorly-ventilated surfaces. It's wetter and colder there, which is perfect for moulds. Left to grow there they can become a problem!

This means there are three key things for reducing mould growth: ventilation, warmth, and dryness. You can't avoid all moisture – even breathing creates it – but you can manage it.



**Did you know** that if you are renting privately and your home isn't being maintained to a decent standard, the council may provide you with professional advice, guidance, assistance or even legal enforcement on the issues? You can enquire to the council about repairs and maintenance issues at [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/report-it).

- 1** Let it breathe by opening windows, even just for 10 minutes every now and then, to change the air.
- 2** Manage moisture by shutting bathroom & kitchen doors, especially when cooking, bathing, and drying laundry.
- 3** Have your heating on lower for longer periods, rather than higher for shorter periods when it will go colder in between.

For lots more practical advice, see [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/ventilation-dryness-warmth](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/ventilation-dryness-warmth)



## **STATUTORY NOTICE: Bromsgrove District Council Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 46 (1) – Waste Collection**

The Council has a duty to collect household waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, but as part of this also has the powers to specify how these services will be provided.

Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) empowers a waste collection authority to require residents to place household waste out for collection in designated containers and separated into specified waste streams.

In so doing it can:

1. Specify the size, construction & maintenance.
2. Define where they should be placed for collection.
3. What may be placed into those specified containers.
4. What the resident must do to facilitate the collection process.

These rules for the service are intended to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and reduce the discharge of pollutants into the air, land, and water, and also sets a legal duty of care on residents to manage their waste responsibly.

These rules are presented below as a Statutory Notice under the Act, and are intended to support residents to use our services correctly, and encourage them to reduce the amount of waste produced, and that everything that can be recycled is.

### **Statutory Notice to the Occupier**

1. The council operates a wheeled bin service, and will only collect waste set out in wheeled bins provided/specified by the council unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.
2. All properties are issued with one grey 240ltr wheeled bin for non-recyclable waste, which is collected fortnightly.
3. The Grey bin must not be used for the disposal of any of the following:
  - a. Garden Waste
  - b. Car Parts

- c. Electrical Items
  - d. Batteries
  - e. Textiles
  - f. DIY waste (Rubble, bricks, plaster, tiles, fixtures and fittings)
  - g. Paint/Chemicals/Oil
  - h. Asbestos or other harmful materials
4. All properties are issued with one green 240ltr wheeled bin, which will be emptied fortnightly on the alternate week to the grey bin.
  5. The Green recycling bin must be used for the disposal of the following dry mixed recyclable waste only:
    - a. Glass Bottles & Jars
    - b. Food & Drink Cans
    - c. Aerosol Cans
    - d. Paper & Cardboard
    - e. Cartons
    - f. Plastic Bottles and rigid plastic packaging (Pots, Trays, Tubs)
  6. All Dry Mixed Recycling must be loose in the wheeled bin – not contained in bags.
  7. Wheeled bins must be available for collection from 7:00am on the scheduled day of collection, at the nearest curtilage to the property (or other location as indicated by the authority).
  8. Wheeled bins must not be kept on the Public Highway between collections and must be removed from the highway and returned to within the property boundary within 24hrs of the scheduled collection day.
  9. Only waste fully contained in the bins provided will be collected. If your bin lid is not closed, your bin may not be emptied. Excess waste will not be collected.
  10. Any bin(s) containing the wrong material type will not be collected, and it will be the duty of the householder to remove the contaminants prior to the next scheduled collection.

It is a legal requirement for residents to comply with the conditions contained within this notice. A failure to meet these requirements can make a householder liable on conviction for a fine of up to £1,000.

For further information or queries regarding our services, including our chargeable Garden Waste service, please visit our website **[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)** or call: **01527 881188**.



## 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. More information on exclusions to the premiums can be found at [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/premiums](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/premiums).

## **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.

## **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](http://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](mailto:revenues@bromsgrove.gov.uk)**

Visit Website: **[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)**

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