

Working out Council Tax Support

Leanne is a lone parent with one child. She earns £220 per week after deductions. She also gets £21.15 per week Child Benefit and £50 per week Child Maintenance.

Because she is the **only adult** in her home, her bill is **reduced by 25%**.

If Leanne claims Council Tax Support, her **child maintenance** and **Child Benefit** are disregarded. So is **£25 per week** of her wages, because she is a lone parent. As she works over **16 hours per week**, she gets an **extra earnings disregard** of £17.10 per week.

Leanne's assessable income for Council Tax Support is £178 per week. The applicable amount for a lone parent and one child is £165.50 per week. Leanne therefore has **£12.50 excess income**.

You have to pay **20% of your excess income** towards your Council Tax.

In Leanne's case, this is **£2.50 per week**.

Leanne will have to pay the minimum **30% of her bill**, (that is 30% of the reduced amount for living alone), plus **£2.50 per week**.



Non-Dependants

If you have an adult living with you who is **not your partner** and **not your grown-up child in education**, you may get less Council Tax Support.

Non-dependants, as they are called, are assumed to give you money for Council Tax. The amount is based on how much they earn. Your Council Tax Support is cut by this amount, even if they don't give you anything.

If you or your non-dependant get certain **disability benefits**, there might be no non-dependant deduction. Ask for more advice about this if you or your non-dependant are disabled.

Don't forget to tell the Council if a non-dependant moves in with you or moves out, or their income changes. This could change the amount of Council Tax you have to pay.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our

Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

www.snsCab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: search for

Potteries Gold

© March 2021



PotteriesGold

Help with Council Tax for Working-Age People

Means-tested benefits No.12



Council Tax support

Every Council in England has its own **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** to help if you cannot afford to pay your full Council Tax.

Also called **Council Tax Support**, this is a means-tested benefit.

How to Claim Council Tax Support

To claim Council Tax Support, **contact your local Council**. You cannot claim help to pay your Council Tax from the DWP or the Jobcentre.

Universal Credit does not add money to your monthly payment for Council Tax. If you claim Universal Credit, make a **separate claim** to your local council for Council Tax Support.

Contact Stoke-on-Trent Council's benefits team

- by phone on **01782 234234** or,
- online www.stoke.gov.uk/contactbenefits

This leaflet looks at the **Stoke-on-Trent scheme for working-age people**. Stoke-on-Trent's scheme is different to Staffordshire Moorlands', Stafford's or Newcastle-under-Lyme's.

We have a **separate leaflet** on Council Tax Support for Pensioners. This also looks at Council Tax discounts which are not means-tested. For example, you get a **25% discount if you are the only adult in your home**. There are also discounts for people with some **very severe disabilities** or who have made certain adaptations to their homes.

Council Tax Support in Stoke-on-Trent

Council Tax Support is **means-tested**. How much help you get depends on your income and savings. If you have a partner, their income and savings are added to yours.

The money you get each week is compared to the amount the Government says you and your family need to live on. This is your **applicable amount**.

If you have savings or investments of **£10,000 or more**, you cannot get Council Tax Support if you live in Stoke-on-Trent.

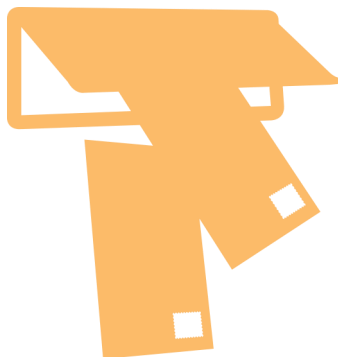
70% Maximum Council Tax Reduction

Most working-age people in Stoke-on-Trent have to pay at least 30% of their Council Tax, even if they have a very low income.

Example

Tom and Christine's house is in Band B for Council Tax. Their annual bill is £1355.52.

They are out of work at the moment and living on Universal Credit of £596.58 per month.



They are entitled to maximum Council Tax Support but this is only **70% of their bill**.

They still have to pay Council Tax of £406.66 per year, or **£33.89 per month**.

100% Council Tax Reduction

You can get up to 100% Council Tax Support if:

- You get **ESA** or **Universal Credit** and are classed as having **limited capability for work-related activity** (in the ESA 'support group')
- You get another **means-tested benefit** which includes a **severe disability premium**.
- You get a **War Disablement Pension** or a **War Widow's Pension**.
- You are **under 25** and a **jobseeker**.



Working Out Council Tax Support

Once the Council have worked out your **minimum payment**, they compare the money you have coming in and your applicable amount.

If your income is **lower than your applicable amount**, you usually get **maximum Council Tax Support**. If your income is higher than your applicable amount, you will have to pay some of the **excess income** towards your Council Tax.

Some income, including the **disability benefits** DLA and PIP, is **disregarded**. This means they are ignored as income when working out your Council Tax Support.

If you work, **part of your earnings** is also disregarded.