

Revenues and Benefits

Ask for: Benefits

Telephone: (01474) 33 77 10

Email: hbcustomer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

My ref

Your ref:

Date:

Dear [Claimant]

Re: Changing our council tax reduction scheme

We have sent this important letter because we are currently revising our council tax reduction scheme, which is set to change from 1 April 2022 for the financial year 2022-2023 and you currently receive council tax support. Please read it carefully as we need you to:

- Understand the proposed changes to the scheme
- Tell us what your views are about the proposed changes

Background

For some people on low income, paying their council tax is a challenge.

If you receive a DWP Benefit such as Universal Credit, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Tax Credits or you are in receipt of a low income you can apply to get help from our Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which, as the name suggests, means you do not have to pay your full council tax bill. However, the scheme is complicated, can be difficult to understand and is time consuming for applicants.

We want to make changes to our scheme to make it simpler, easier to understand and fairer for all, and we need your views on what we are planning to do. **However, Pension age households will not be affected as Central Government prescribe their scheme.**

This is not about the council cutting costs – the amount of money available to help people meet their council tax bills remains the same, we are just proposing to distribute it in a different way.

In the vast majority of cases, people will see no difference in the amount of support they receive, or may even receive an increase.

But there will be some people who will not get the same amount of financial support from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as they do now. However, we will know who those people are and we will support them to ensure they do not fall into financial difficulties.

It's really important that as many of you as possible take part in our consultation and make your

Switchboard 01474 56 44 22

Minicom 01474 33 76 17

Website www.gravesham.gov.uk

views known to us.

What is the next step?

The consultation runs until midnight on 24th December 2021. You can access the consultation via <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/ctr-consultation>

This form may be completed on your behalf by a family member, friend or by any person or organisation which supports you. However, should you still like help in completing the form or if you are unable to complete the survey online and would like a hard copy sent to you please contact us via ctr@gravesham.gov.uk or telephone 01474 337710 and we will help you through the process.

If you'd like to read more detailed background information about the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme please visit www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/council-tax/council-taxreduction/overview

Your comments will help us ensure that our local scheme for the financial year 2022-2023 remains fair, incentivises returning to work and offers support for those in Gravesham who need it the most.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Revenues and Benefits

Revenues and Benefits**Ask for:** Benefits**Telephone:** (01474) 33 77 10**Email:** hbcustomer.services@gravesham.gov.uk**My ref****Your ref:****Date:**

Dear [Resident]

Re: Changing our council tax reduction scheme

We have sent this important letter because we are currently revising our council tax reduction scheme, which is set to change from 1 April 2022 for the financial year 2022-2023.

We are consulting with all the affected claimants of council tax reduction and have written to them directly. However, we need to ensure that we represent the views of those taxpayers who do not currently receive council tax reduction but may need to in the future should their financial circumstances change. It is important that we receive a broad range of views from differing perspectives.

Background

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But there will be some people who will not get the same amount of financial support from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as they do now. However, we will know who those people are and we will support them to ensure they do not fall into financial difficulties.

It's really important that as many of you as possible take part in our consultation and make your views known to us.

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Head of Revenues and Benefits