

## **Financial Support for Council Tax – Water - Gas/Electric bills:**

### **Council Tax Reduction:**

You may be eligible for Council Tax Reduction if you are on a low income or on benefits.

### **Council Tax Discount:**

Council tax discounts are available for the disabled, single persons, care workers and exempt persons.

### **Council tax exceptional hardship relief scheme:**

If you experience exceptional circumstances of financial hardship, then you may be able to claim some discretionary assistance with your council tax. This is not a cash payment, but an account balancing payment to help manage a debt.

### **Crisis support scheme-Welfare assistance from Luton Council - 0800 4561673**

Whether you're a Council, Private or Housing Association tenant you may qualify for help with food bank vouchers, white goods and bedding.

### **Free School Meals:**

Only those in receipt of qualifying benefits will be awarded with entitlement. Please check using above link.

### **[For further information and procedures please visit/search](#)**

**Warm Home Discount-** You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter if you are on certain benefits and have low income. You must apply directly to your utility provider every year (it does not get awarded automatically).

[Check this site to verify eligibility](#)

**Winter fuel payment** - If you were born on or before 5 April 1954 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'

### **[For more information on this, please search](#)**

**Cold weather payment** - £25 for each period of very cold weather, to find out more about Cold Weather Payments visit.

### **[For more information on this, please search](#)**

**EON Trust fund:** financial help towards clearing gas or energy debts. You must be a customer of EON's. You can also apply to get white goods, e.g. fridge freezer, cooker/oven.

### **[For more information on this, please search](#)**

**EDF Trust Fund:** Clear domestic gas and electricity debts owed to EDF Energy, Purchase essential energy efficient household items, e.g. washing machines, cookers, and Bankruptcy/DRO, Sequestration and Minimal Asset Process fees.

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**Npower Trust fund:** financial help towards clearing gas or energy debts. You must be a customer of npower's. You can also apply to get white goods, e.g. fridge freezer, cooker/oven.

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**British Gas Trust Fund:** financial help towards clearing gas or energy debts. You must be a customer of British Gas. You can also apply to get white goods, e.g. fridge freezer, cooker/oven.

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**Age Concern radiator loan for the Elderly (subject to availability):** if you have no functional heating within your property and no alternative means of heating, and low income, you can request an oil filled radiator from Age Concern for a temporary period until your heating is fixed: 01582 456812.

**Of Gem advice:** An online guide about how to keeping heating costs. [For more information on this, please search](#)

**U Switch:** online calculator for finding out which tariff on the current market is cheapest/cheaper than what you are currently on.

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**Priority Service Register:** If you have a medical condition that requires you to use water, electricity or gas consistently, you can be added to the register, so that your supply is not affected during a blackout/service interruption. To be added to the Priority Services Register, you simply need to contact your energy supplier. You can find their contact details on your energy bill.

### **Water:**

**Customer assistance fund** - can help if you are struggling to pay your water bill and are behind on previous bills. [Apply on line](#)

**Low income tariff:** This is aimed at customers who have a low household income or are claiming benefits. You will receive a fixed bill for the year that can be spread monthly.

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**Water sure direct:** This can help if you are behind in paying your water bill you will need to receive one or more of the following benefits: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal credit.

**Free items:** Water saving devices from Affinity Water. [For more information on this, please search](#) -

### [Ahas](#)

Help on family budgeting and expenditure for:

Food, household shopping, Household fuel and water rates, Phone/broadband/TV, Clothing, Travel and more.

[Please see/search link below.](#)

### **Charities (these all require professional referral)**

**Glass pool Trust Fund-** this provides timely, small, one-off grants to individuals and families in need of financial support for everyday items to help them set up or remain in their home; improve their well-being and in some cases we provide grants to support training to enable applicants to take up an offer of employment. This charity requires application to be submitted by a professional, please check with Citizens Advice Bureau.

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**School uniform exchange** - Support families struggling financially with items like shoes, winter coats, school uniforms, learning equipment for the home and enrichment activities over the holidays. Referral has to be made by professional, please check with your local school.

For more information on this, please search [the mail uniform exchange](#)

**Food bank** – you can receive vouchers or food parcels to help with getting food. Referrals must be submitted by a professional:

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**BBC Children in need** – requires application to be submitted by professional, check with Flying Start Children's Centres:

[For more information on this, please search](#)

### **Cleaning service**

**Maxine's cachet cleaning** – Maxine provides a helpful, friendly and sensitive cleaning service for people who need help cleaning out items from their home that they have trouble removing themselves **[must be self funded]**

[For more information on this, please search](#)

**Age concern gardening/handyperson service:** service for elderly, vulnerable people in need of extra assistance, **[must be self funded]**

[For more information on this, please search](#)