

## **Council Tax Reduction Covid 19 Hardship Payment:**

For the 2020/21 bill, Working age Council Tax Payers who receive Council Tax Reduction qualify for a Covid 19 Hardship Fund Payment, applied as a credit on the bill. The credit reduces the bill by £150.00. If the total amount owed is less than £150.00, the credit reduces the bill to zero.

The below will help to explain why you have this revised bill and answer some questions you may have.

*Why have I got this bill?*

The government announced a set of financial assistance to help people through the Coronavirus pandemic. One of the funds was a “COVID 19 Hardship Fund” for all working age people receiving Council Tax Reduction

*How much is it?*

It is a payment of up to £150 paid direct to your council tax account and will reduce the amount you owe.

*Does this mean I will have to pay any council tax?*

You may still have an amount to pay or you may have nothing to pay. However the £150 cannot put you into credit, it will be capped at the point your bill becomes zero

*What if I've already paid my council tax?*

If you have already paid some or all of your council tax, you will still be entitled to this payment. In this case, it may mean that your council tax account goes into credit and any genuine credit will be refunded to you.

*What if I stop getting Council Tax Reduction?*

If you stop getting ‘working age’ Council Tax Reduction, part way through the year, you may / will still be entitled to the hardship fund payment.

*What if I stop getting Council Tax Reduction and then get it again later in the year?*

If you stop getting Council Tax Reduction and then get it again later in the year, you will only receive the one payment in the year.

*What if I move?*

If you move out of Wokingham Borough Council area, you may only be entitled to part of the £150. The adjustments will be made on your final bill. If you stay in the borough and are still entitled to Council Tax Reduction, you will still be able to receive a Hardship payment.

If you have any further questions please email [benefits@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@wokingham.gov.uk) or call 0118 9746000