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## **Council Tax 2025/26**

### **Receive your council tax bill online**

We offer the facility of viewing your council tax account on-line – please register at

[My Account – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#)

Once your account is enabled you will be able to view your account, track your payments, make arrangements and opt to pay by direct debit. You can also sign up for e-billing via your online account.

E-billing provides a faster, more efficient and convenient way to receive and check your bills. To receive your bill direct to your account instead of receiving a paper bill, sign up via your online account using the link above and opt for e-billing.

### **Direct Debit is the easy way to pay your council tax**

Payment of council tax by Direct Debit in monthly instalments is the most convenient and safest way to pay. Paying by Direct Debit eliminates the risk of missed or late payments.

If you would like to pay by Direct Debit you can set this up via your online account at [My Account – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#) or email [Welhat.CouncilTax@liberata.com](mailto:Welhat.CouncilTax@liberata.com) with your bank details, account reference number and telephone number and we will call you to set this up.

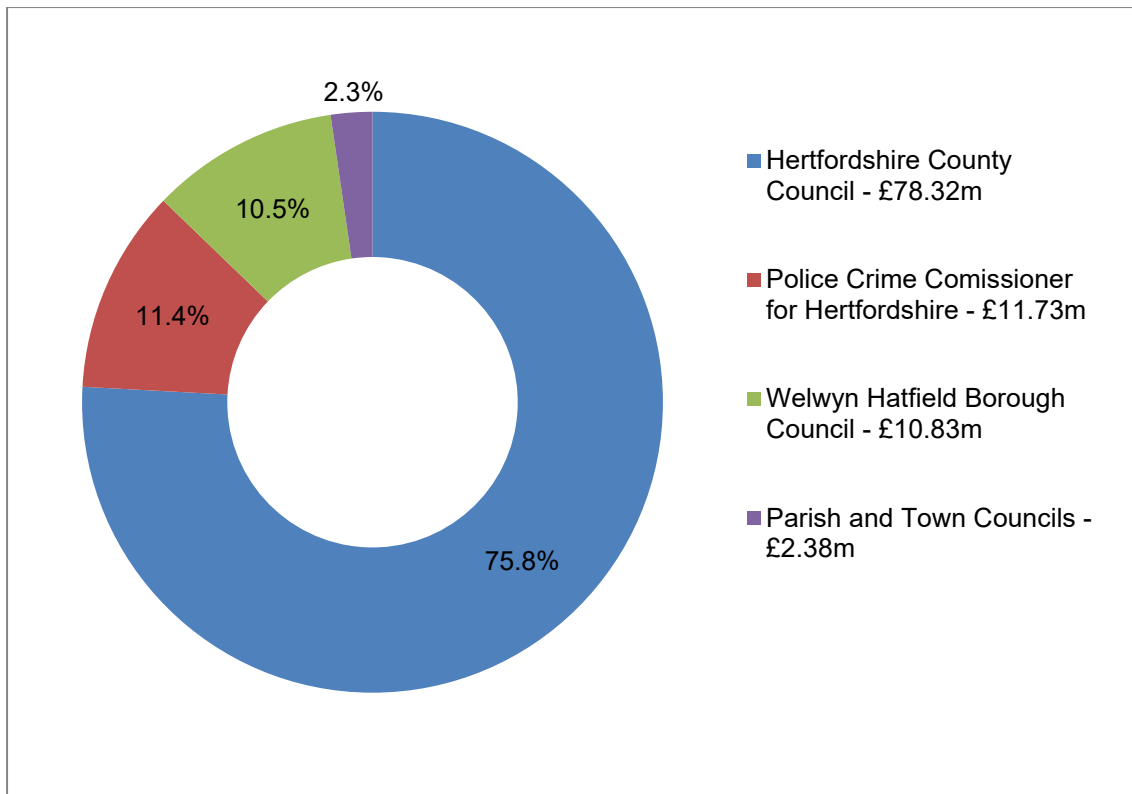
### **What is council tax and how is it used?**

Council tax is a tax on domestic property collected by the borough council on behalf of all preceptors in the area.

Your council tax bill shows the amount of money you will pay towards local services in 2025/26.

Although the borough council collects your council tax, it is divided between public bodies that deliver services to you, as shown in the image below.

The 2025/26 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council budget was approved at a Council meeting on 3 February 2025. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Council, 03/02/2025 19:30](#)



## How we calculate what you pay

### Council tax bands

Council tax payment bands are calculated based on the value of your property in 1991. There are eight valuation bands:

| Band | Property value (£) | Band | Property value (£) |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| A    | 40,000             | E    | 88,001-120,000     |
| B    | 40,001-52,000      | F    | 120,000-160,000    |
| C    | 52,001-68,000      | G    | 160,001-320,000    |
| D    | 68,001-88,000      | H    | Exceeding 320,000  |

The table below shows the council tax payable for each band for 2025/26.

If you are a Band D payer, for example, £229.73 will go to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, £1,769.87 will go towards services supplied by Hertfordshire County Council and £265.00 will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire.

| Band | Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council | Hertfordshire County Council | Police and Crime Commissioner for Herts |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
|      | £ per year                      | £ per year                   | £ per year                              |
| A    | 153.15                          | 1,179.91                     | 176.67                                  |
| B    | 178.68                          | 1,376.56                     | 206.11                                  |
| C    | 204.20                          | 1,573.22                     | 235.56                                  |
| D    | 229.73                          | 1,769.87                     | 265.00                                  |
| E    | 280.78                          | 2,163.18                     | 323.89                                  |
| F    | 331.83                          | 2,556.48                     | 382.78                                  |
| G    | 382.88                          | 2,949.78                     | 441.67                                  |
| H    | 459.46                          | 3,539.74                     | 530.00                                  |

If you disagree with the banding of your property, you can appeal against your banding by contacting the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) at [gov.uk/contact-voa](http://gov.uk/contact-voa). If you are unable to use the online service, you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501

## Council Tax by area

The table below shows Council Tax by area and Band

| Part of the Council's Area (£) |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                | Band A   | Band B   | Band C   | Band D   | Band E   | Band F   | Band G   | Band H   |
| Ayot St Lawrence               | 1,517.59 | 1,770.51 | 2,023.46 | 2,276.38 | 2,782.25 | 3,288.11 | 3,793.97 | 4,552.76 |
| Ayot St Peter                  | 1,534.69 | 1,790.47 | 2,046.26 | 2,302.04 | 2,813.61 | 3,325.17 | 3,836.73 | 4,604.08 |
| Essendon                       | 1,605.45 | 1,873.02 | 2,140.61 | 2,408.18 | 2,943.34 | 3,478.49 | 4,013.63 | 4,816.36 |
| Hatfield                       | 1,583.73 | 1,847.68 | 2,111.65 | 2,375.60 | 2,903.52 | 3,431.43 | 3,959.33 | 4,751.20 |
| North Mymms                    | 1,547.43 | 1,805.32 | 2,063.24 | 2,321.14 | 2,836.96 | 3,352.76 | 3,868.57 | 4,642.28 |
| Northaw & Cuffley              | 1,572.01 | 1,834.00 | 2,096.02 | 2,358.01 | 2,882.02 | 3,406.02 | 3,930.02 | 4,716.02 |
| Welwyn                         | 1,580.85 | 1,844.31 | 2,107.80 | 2,371.27 | 2,898.23 | 3,425.17 | 3,952.12 | 4,742.54 |
| Welwyn Garden City             | 1,527.80 | 1,782.43 | 2,037.07 | 2,291.70 | 2,800.97 | 3,310.24 | 3,819.50 | 4,583.40 |
| Woolmer Green                  | 1,544.63 | 1,802.07 | 2,059.52 | 2,316.95 | 2,831.83 | 3,346.71 | 3,861.58 | 4,633.90 |

## Parish and Town Councils

If you have a parish or town council in your area, your council tax bill will include a contribution for them.

For example, council tax bills for Band D properties will vary from £2,276.38 to £2,408.18 depending on where you live, because of the variation in parish and town council precept and special expenses.

Please see below for a more detailed budget breakdown of the parish and town councils in the borough.

| Ayot St Lawrence |  | 2024/25      | 2025/26      |
|------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
|                  |  | £            | £            |
| A                | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 800          | 800          |
| B                | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | 0            | 0            |
| <b>C</b>         | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>800</b>   | <b>800</b>   |
| <b>D</b>         | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>67.90</b> | <b>67.90</b> |
| <b>E</b>         | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>11.78</b> | <b>11.78</b> |

Ayot St Lawrence contact: Edward Janes, Parish Council Chair

[Ayotvillage1@gmail.com](mailto:Ayotvillage1@gmail.com) / 07770 594216

| <b>Ayot St Peter</b> |  | <b>2024/25</b> | <b>2025/26</b> |
|----------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
|                      |  | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| A                    | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 3,750          | 4,250          |
| B                    | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | 0              | 0              |
| <b>C</b>             | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>3,750</b>   | <b>4,250</b>   |
| <b>D</b>             | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>110.70</b>  | <b>113.50</b>  |
| <b>E</b>             | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>33.57</b>   | <b>37.44</b>   |

Ayot St Peter contact: Jennifer Fowler, Parish Clerk

[clerk@ayotstpeter.com](mailto:clerk@ayotstpeter.com)

| <b>Essendon</b> |  | <b>2024/25</b> | <b>2025/26</b> |
|-----------------|--|----------------|----------------|
|                 |  | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| A               | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 50,812         | 61,649         |
| B               | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | (230)          | (468)          |
| <b>C</b>        | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>50,582</b>  | <b>61,181</b>  |
| <b>D</b>        | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>438.80</b>  | <b>434.30</b>  |
| <b>E</b>        | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>115.27</b>  | <b>140.87</b>  |

Essendon contact: Caroline Chapple, Parish Clerk

[clerk@essendonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@essendonparishcouncil.gov.uk) / 07813 831947

| <b>Hatfield Town Council</b> |  | <b>2024/25</b>   | <b>2025/26</b>   |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
|                              |  | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>         |
| A                            | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 1,816,220        | 1,828,350        |
| B                            | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | (633,000)        | (544,750)        |
| <b>C</b>                     | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>1,183,220</b> | <b>1,283,600</b> |
| <b>D</b>                     | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>12,471.80</b> | <b>12,650.30</b> |
| <b>E</b>                     | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>94.87</b>     | <b>101.47</b>    |

Hatfield contact: Town Clerk

[town.clerk@hatfield-herts.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@hatfield-herts.gov.uk) / 01707 262023

| <b>North Mymms Parish Council</b> |  | <b>2024/25</b>  | <b>2025/26</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                   |  | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        |
| A                                 | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 279,324         | 308,947         |
| B                                 | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | (51,372)        | (56,257)        |
| <b>C</b>                          | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>227,952</b>  | <b>252,690</b>  |
| <b>D</b>                          | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>4,451.20</b> | <b>4,469.30</b> |
| <b>E</b>                          | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>51.21</b>    | <b>56.54</b>    |

North Mymms contact: Christine Wootton, Parish Clerk

[clerk@northmymms.org](mailto:clerk@northmymms.org) / 01707 268418

| <b>Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council</b> |  |                 |                 |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|   |  | <b>2024/25</b>  | <b>2025/26</b>  |
|   |  | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        |
| A   | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 376,970         | 382,285         |
| B   | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | (102,757)       | (101,627)       |
| <b>C</b>                                  | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>274,213</b>  | <b>280,658</b>  |
| <b>D</b>                                  | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>3,129.70</b> | <b>3,120.50</b> |
| <b>E</b>                                  | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>87.62</b>    | <b>89.94</b>    |

Northaw and Cuffley contact: Lisa Peters, Parish Clerk/RFO

[parish.clerk@northawcuffleyipc.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@northawcuffleyipc.org.uk) / 07375 962772

| <b>Welwyn Parish Council</b> |  |                 |                 |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|                              |  | <b>2024/25</b>  | <b>2025/26</b>  |
|                              |  | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        |
| A                            | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 700,801         | 724,506         |
| B                            | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | (254,471)       | (255,859)       |
| <b>C</b>                     | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>446,330</b>  | <b>468,647</b>  |
| <b>D</b>                     | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>4,763.80</b> | <b>4,794.50</b> |
| <b>E</b>                     | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>93.69</b>    | <b>97.75</b>    |

Welwyn contact: Caroline Williams, Parish Clerk

[clerk@welwyn-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@welwyn-pc.org.uk) / 01438 716667

| <b>Woolmer Green Parish Council</b> |  |                |                |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
|                                     |  | <b>2024/25</b> | <b>2025/26</b> |
|                                     |  | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| A                                   | Total expenditure (positive figure)                | 108,130        | 106,345        |
| B                                   | Total income and use of reserves (negative figure) | (77,852)       | (73,948)       |
| <b>C</b>                            | <b>Precept (A+B)</b>                               | <b>30,278</b>  | <b>32,397</b>  |
| <b>D</b>                            | <b>Taxbase</b>                                     | <b>604.0</b>   | <b>618.80</b>  |
| <b>E</b>                            | <b>Band D (C+D)</b>                                | <b>50.13</b>   | <b>52.35</b>   |

Woolmer Green contact: Janet Pearce, Parish Clerk

[clerk@woolmergreenpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@woolmergreenpc.org.uk) / 03707 776132

## Discounts and exemptions

### Council Tax Support

You could get money off your council tax bill if you qualify for council tax support. You can apply for council tax support whether you own your home, rent it, are unemployed or working.

Please note that you MUST make an application for council tax support with the Council as the Department for Work and Pensions may not inform us should you claim benefit from them. E.g., Universal Credit. You can apply online [Apply for Housing Benefit – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council \(welhat.gov.uk\)](https://www.welhat.gov.uk).

If you are on a low income or claiming benefits the amount of reduction you may get depends on: your circumstances (e.g. number of children, number of non-dependants) your household income (e.g. savings, pension, your partner's income) if your children live with you or if other adults live with you. You cannot claim council tax support if you, or you and your partner, have savings and investments of

more than £16,000. However, if you are a pensioner with more than £16,000 in savings and you receive Guarantee Credit, you can still claim. Further information on claiming can be found from [Apply for Housing Benefit – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#) or by contacting the Benefits Team, [Welhat.Benefits@liberata.com](mailto:Welhat.Benefits@liberata.com) or on 0333 034 3014.

## Pension Credit

Pension Credit is:

**Guarantee Credit** – awarded to people over 60 who would otherwise qualify for Income Support.

**Savings Credit** – additional income for pensioners aged 65 and over who have made some provision for their retirement, for example, by having a small private pension and/or some savings.

Entitlement can be to both, or either component separately, depending on the age and income of the claimant and their partner. If you are receiving Guarantee Credit, you may be entitled to 100% rebate on your council tax. If you receive Savings Credit only, and have under £16,000 in savings, you may still be eligible for some Council Tax Support, depending on your income, savings and the amount of Savings Credit you receive. You may automatically qualify for backdated benefit or support for up to three months if you claim Pension Credit, dependant on your circumstances.

## Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)

If you are getting Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based), you may be entitled to a 75% rebate on your bill. You may qualify for 100% rebate on your bill if you are getting one of the disability benefits or are responsible for the care of a child under five. If you have other adults living with you – for example, grown up children, a non-dependent deduction could also apply for pensioners who are not in receipt of Pension Credit. The amount of benefit you get is normally reduced for each adult as shown below. There is no restriction on the support you can receive based on what band you are in.

### What happens if you're not on Income Support / Jobseeker's Allowance or Guarantee Credit?

The amount of council tax support you get will depend on the following:

#### Your capital

If you and your partner have combined savings of £16,000 or more, you will not receive any council tax support.

#### Your income and personal circumstances

We have to compare the money you have coming in, with a figure the Government say you need to live on. For every £1 over that figure, 20p will be taken off your benefit. This does not apply if you are on Universal Credit.

#### How and when to claim

If you claim for Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based), or Universal Credit you will need to claim Council Tax Support separately. An application can be made online at [www.welhat.gov.uk/getbenefit](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/getbenefit) If you have a partner, you should only make one claim for both of you. If you know your circumstances are going to change, you can claim up to eight weeks before the change is due to happen.

## Other Discounts and Exemptions

**Your council tax bill can also be reduced if you qualify for a discount or exemption. These are given for the status of the dwelling and the adult residents.**

There are several reasons you might qualify for a discount or an exemption on your Council Tax bill.

You do not need to be on a low income to qualify and savings are not taken into consideration

If you are the only adult living in your home you can apply for a discount, details of this and how to apply is available from <https://www.welhat.gov.uk/council-tax>

You may also qualify for a discount or exemption if either all or all but one of the residents are disregarded. Details of all discounts and exemptions available and details of how to apply is available from <https://www.welhat.gov.uk/homepage/4/council-tax-discounts-and-exemptions>.

### Vacant property discounts and premiums

Find out if your property is eligible for a council tax discount while empty and how much you should pay on a second home details of this and how to apply is available from [www.welhat.gov.uk/empty-homes](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/empty-homes)

The information is not exhaustive. You can get more information online at: [www.welhat.gov.uk/discountsexemptions](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/discountsexemptions) or, should you wish to make an application, please use the online portal [My Account – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#) or contact [welhat.counciltax@liberata.com](mailto:welhat.counciltax@liberata.com).

## Students

If you live in Halls of Residence, you do not pay any council tax. Any property which is occupied only by students is exempt. Details of how to apply and full information can be found from [Student Council Tax discounts and exemptions – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#)

If any non-student is present in the property, then the exemption does not apply, and liability arises.

Students who are: lone parents; pensioners; disabled; on Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based); have a nonstudent partner or are a student couple with dependent children, can also claim benefits or Council Tax Support.

## Second Adult Rebate – for pensioners only

This rebate is not normally available to couples. If you are the only person in your household liable to pay council tax and you have another adult on low income living with you (not your partner or someone paying you rent) you may be entitled to this rebate instead of council tax support.

You can get up to a quarter of your council tax bill paid with a Second Adult Rebate, but the amount of help you get depends on the combined incomes of the adults living with you.

- If all other adults are getting Income Support/ Jobseekers allowance Income based the rebate will be 25%
- If the gross income of all other adults works out to be less than £276.00 a week the rebate will be 15%
- If the gross income of all other adults works out to be between £276.00 - £358.00 a week the rebate will be 7.5%

| <b>Non-dependent deductions – Council Tax Support (thresholds 2025 -26)</b>                  | <b>£</b> |
|--|----------|
| Age 18 and over and in remunerative work   |          |
| Others aged 18 or over   | 5.00     |
| Gross income less than £266  | 5.00     |
| Gross income £266.00 - £463.00   | 10.20    |
| Gross income £463.00 – £577.00   | 12.80    |
| Gross income greater than £577.00  | 15.35    |
| In receipt of pension credit and not remunerative work, or in receipt of IS/JSA(IB), ESA(IR) | NIL      |
| In receipt of pension Credit and not in remunerative work                                    | NIL      |

Your benefit will also be reduced if you have other adults living with you who are not on Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based). Your income and savings will be added together with your partners to work out your benefit. Other things that may affect your entitlement include your age, how many children you have, or whether you have any disabilities.

You can use [www.welhat.gov.uk/benefit-calculator](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/benefit-calculator) to find out if you may be eligible for support. Further information on council tax support and housing benefit is available online at [Benefits – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council \(welhat.gov.uk\)](#).

## Benefits

### Housing Benefit

Housing benefit for people living in social housing is limited to reflect bedroom needs. This is part of the Government’s plans to tackle under occupancy in social housing. Benefit will be reduced if the accommodation is larger than the needs of the household (e.g. a couple aged 50 whose children have left home will have their benefit reduced to the one-bedroom rate).

### Universal Credit

Universal Credit replaced the former benefit system and brought together housing benefit for working age people with other welfare benefits and tax credits. The scheme is managed by the Department for Work and Pensions, with claims and change of circumstances being submitted by claimants using an online portal. Universal Credit eligibility rules correspond to the benefit that a claimant would previously have been entitled to and which Universal Credit replaced.

Universal Credit does not apply to every claimant on housing benefit (HB). It applies to single people, couples with two children and families of working age who made a new claim or have a change of circumstances. The definition of ‘change of circumstances’ covers all changes to Tax Credit, Employment Support Allowance, Job Seekers Allowance and Income Support for HB recipients.

Universal Credit awards are calculated using a prescribed formula which takes into account the individual circumstances of the person making the claim such as housing costs and whether there are children in the household. Universal Credit will be assessed on a household basis, with the income and capital of both members of a couple being taken into account.

The maximum amount may be awarded to all those out of work with no other income. For people in employment, Universal Credit is adjusted depending on the level of earnings received. Universal Credit is paid once a month in arrears and is normally paid into the bank account of one member of the couple.

#### **What benefits are included in Universal Credit?**



The following benefits are included in Universal Credit:

- Income Support
- JSA income based
- ESA income based
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

#### **What benefits are not included in Universal Credit?**

The following benefits are not affected by Universal Credit:

- Attendance Allowance
- Bereavement Benefits
- Carer's Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Contributory Employment and Support Allowance
- Contributory Jobseeker's Allowance
- Council Tax Benefit
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Maternity Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Statutory Maternity Pay
- Statutory Sick Pay
- War Pensions

You will need a bank account to receive Universal Credit payments, should you not have one already. For information on basic bank accounts, which also allow Direct Debit payments, visit: [www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk](http://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk). Planning your budget using the free online budget planners is also available through this link.

You can plan for future costs by saving with a Credit Union. For more information on Credit Unions in your area visit [www.hertsavers.co.uk](http://www.hertsavers.co.uk)

If you are having financial difficulties, you can contact Citizens Advice, Queensway House, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0LW, 0800 144 8848. Citizens Advice is an independent charity where the public can obtain free, confidential information and advice. Or visit the Citizens Advice website: <https://cawelhat.org.uk> Or call the National Debtline on 0808 808 4000 or visit [www.nationaldebtline.org](http://www.nationaldebtline.org). Their work involves providing advice on issues such as debt management and welfare benefits.

## **Help and advice**

We are here to do what we can to help you. Information on council tax support and housing benefit is available from [www.welhat.gov.uk/benefit/help](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/benefit/help). If you need any help with your council tax support claim, need an application form or some advice about your entitlement, please contact the Benefits Team on [welhat.benefits@liberata.com](mailto:welhat.benefits@liberata.com) or 0333 034 3014. You can also visit the **Council Offices**, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City (8.45am-5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am-4.45pm Fridays).

## **Council Tax Service**

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council works in partnership with Liberata UK Ltd to provide council tax, benefits and national non-domestic rates services, in accordance with agreed service delivery standards and targets.

Through this partnership, we aim to improve service delivery and performance, whilst retaining and improving customer satisfaction.