

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FUND

The government has announced a package of support known as the Council Tax Support Fund to support the most vulnerable Households, with their Council Tax payments.

Uttlesford will receive a payment of £84,546 for the main scheme providing £25.00 direct payments to households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support for the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, the Council can use any remaining allocation as they see fit to support other vulnerable households with their Council Tax bills.

The main scheme criteria and eligibility is in line with Government Guidance. (Please see attached link)

[Council Tax Support Fund guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/council-tax-support-fund)

For the 2023-2024 financial year only, this scheme will be in place to provide a Council Tax Support Fund Payment against the Annual Council Tax bill in the following circumstances.

The billing Authority will be reimbursed by a Section 31 grant and new burdens funding will be made available.

Main Scheme

Eligibility	Scheme
Main Scheme -Council Taxpayers in receipt of Local Council Tax Support and living in the Uttlesford area.	All LCTS claimants (Main Scheme) resident on or after 1 st April 2023 with an ongoing liability will qualify automatically for an award of £25 <u>or</u> the total of their outstanding Council Tax whichever is lower.

Discretionary Scheme

Eligibility	Scheme
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discretionary Scheme – All LCTS claimants will receive an additional £25 top up automatically. 2. Discretionary Scheme- Non- LCTS Council Taxpayers suffering financial hardship due to the cost of living crisis and living in the Uttlesford area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LCTS claimants will receive an automatic additional £25 <u>or</u> the total of their outstanding Council Tax whichever is lower under the discretionary policy. • For non-LCTS customers, this will be assessed and awarded in accordance with the Exceptional Hardship Policy. Total award under this scheme will be £25.00 or the total of their outstanding liability whichever is lower. • This award of Council Tax Support will not affect the eligibility of recipients for other benefits.