



West Devon
Borough
Council



DRAFT

Cost of living

Your guide to help & support

We know that in recent months, more of you will have considered the impact that the increase in the cost of living has on your day to day lives.

I would urge anyone in the Borough who is struggling, whether that's emotionally, financially or because you need practical help, to get in touch with the organisations contained within this leaflet and seek support.

Many of us may find ourselves in a position that we've never experienced before, but its important that you act now to prevent any problems getting worse. There are many organisations that can help and the Borough Council will do all we can to support you.



Cllr Tony Leech

**Lead Member for Community
Wellbeing**



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Energy Matters

As energy prices continue to rise rapidly, help is available. We know that Energy Suppliers will be crediting customers bills in the Autumn, but other support is available right now.

£150 Council Tax Energy Rebate

If you pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit you should have already received the £150 in your bank account. If you pay your Council Tax in other ways, please visit our website.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/energy-rebate

Energy Debt

If you're in debt to your energy provider, you could access grants from a charitable trust to help pay it off.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Energy Efficiency Improvements

The scheme is available to Devon residents who have an annual combined household income of less than £30,000 and whose homes have an energy Performance Certificate rating of E, F or G.

www.lendology.org.uk

For more
Energy Related
Support, visit:

www.westdevon.gov.uk/Fuel-Poverty



Financial Support

If you need financial support, don't wait until your situation gets worse – act now, help is available.

Low Income?

If you are earning a low income, you may be able to get a reduction of up to 85% in the amount of Council Tax you need to pay with our Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction

Household Support Fund

We are writing to households that are eligible for support to offer free school meals during the summer holidays and a £90 one off payment to householders of state pension age. If you think you're eligible but haven't received a letter, visit:

www.westdevon.gov.uk/household-support-fund



Support with Housing

The costs of running our homes is likely our biggest outlay each month. However, there is a range of support available for housing related concerns you may have.

Devon Home Choice

Apply online to access all social housing (including Housing Associations and local councils across Devon)

www.devonhomechoice.com

Help to meet monthly rental payments

If you're already in receipt of Housing Benefit payments, Discretionary Housing payments are available to provide additional help to people in meeting their monthly rental payments.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/dhp

Time to downsize?

We can offer up to £5,000 to enable social housing tenants to downsize to a smaller property – which will cost less to run and free up larger properties for those that need them.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/downsizing

Housing Advice

Our team can help with landlord mediation, advice on finding alternative accommodation, financial assistance with moving costs or maintaining accommodation.

Email – housing.advice@swdevon.gov.uk

Grants for adapting and improving existing properties

Grants are available to help with a range of adaptations and improvements to your home including Independent Living Grants and addressing defects which pose Health and Safety issues to the resident. Loans are also available to make home improvements.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/housing-services

At risk of homelessness?

If you are at risk of becoming homeless, for whatever reason, it's important to act fast.

Visit our website and get in touch. Once you've registered, one of our team will contact you within 3 working days to help.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/housingadvice

Independent Advice & Support

We work with Citizens Advice to ensure our residents can access free, impartial advice on debt, benefits, employment, and housing problems. They can help households make sure you're getting all the support they are entitled to.

www.ruraldevoncab.org.uk

or freephone 08082 787999



**citizens
advice**

Something else?

Visit our online support directory

We know that it can be difficult to identify support that may be available to you and so we've created an online support directory.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/support-directory

And let others know how to find it!



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