



Local Housing Allowance: an introduction

April 2008



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Local Housing Allowance is a new way of working out new claims for Housing Benefit for tenants renting accommodation from a private landlord. It also affects tenants already getting Housing Benefit who move



into accommodation rented from a private landlord. Local Housing Allowance is being introduced on **7 April, 2008**. If you live in council accommodation or other social housing, Local Housing Allowance will not affect you.

With Local Housing Allowance, your benefit is not usually based on the property you live in. It is usually based on:

- who lives with you.
- which area you live in.
- how much money you have coming in.
- what savings you have.

In some cases the amount of benefit you are entitled to will be affected by other things. These can include:

- how much your rent is.
- whether anyone living with you is expected to contribute to your rent.

How will I get **my benefit** if Local Housing Allowance applies to me?

Usually you will have your benefit paid directly to you. It will be paid directly into your bank or building society account.

If you do not already have a bank or building society account, you may want to set one up. That way you can arrange to pay the rent to your landlord automatically, using a standing order.

You can get advice about opening and running a bank account from any bank or building society. You can also get advice from a welfare organisation such as Citizens Advice.

It is up to you to pay the rent to your landlord. If you don't pay your rent, you may be taken to court and evicted from the property.

Can I have **my benefit** paid direct to my landlord?

Your benefit is paid to you unless you are likely to have difficulty paying your rent, or it must be paid to your landlord. If you are worried about managing your money, ask us if we can help. In some cases we may be able to pay your rent to your landlord.

What will happen if I use **my benefit** for something else?

Your benefit is for you to pay your rent with. If you do not use your benefit to pay your rent, your landlord may take you to court or try to evict you and you may lose your home.

Changes of circumstance

If you are getting Housing Benefit and you move to a new address or other circumstances change, you should tell us straightaway. You may need to make a new claim for Housing Benefit.

Why are we introducing **Local Housing Allowance**?

Local Housing Allowance gives tenants more choice in where they live and it's fairer too. This is because with Local Housing Allowance:

- you will be entitled to the same amount of benefit as people in the same circumstances as you.
- you can find out how much benefit you can get before you rent a property.
- you can decide how much of your benefit you want to spend on renting a property.
- you will usually get your benefit paid to you. It is up to you to pay the rent to your landlord.
- you will find out about your benefit more quickly than before.

[More information](#) ►

"Local Housing Allowance is being introduced on 7 April, 2008".

Where to get **more** information

If you want to know more about the changes and how they affect you:

- phone our Housing Benefit department on **01483 523596**
- look on our website www.waverley.gov.uk
- email us housingbenefits@waverley.gov.uk
- visit one of our offices at:

Council Offices, The Burys, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HR

open 8.45am – 5.15pm Mon – Thurs, 8.45am – 4.45pm Fri and 9am – 12 noon Sat

Farnham Locality Office, South Street, Farnham

open 9am – 12.15pm Mon, 9am – 5pm
Tues – Thurs, 9am – 4.30pm Fri and 9am – 12 noon Sat

Cranleigh Locality Office, Leisure Centre, Village Way, Cranleigh

open 9am – 5pm
Mon – Weds (closed 12.30pm – 1.30pm), 9am – 5pm Thurs, 9am – 12.30pm Fri and
9am – 12 noon Sat

Haslemere Locality Office, Lion Green, Haslemere

open 9am – 5pm Mon – Thurs
(closed 12.20pm – 1.30pm), 9am – 12.30pm Fri and 9am – 12 noon Sat

Remember that this leaflet is a guide only. It is not meant to say exactly what your legal rights are. While we have tried to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the date shown on the cover, it is possible that there may be incorrect information or some ideas may be oversimplified. Also, please remember that the information in this leaflet is likely to become less accurate over time because of changes to the law.

Waverley Borough Council **contact details**

Waverley Borough Council
The Burys
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1HR

www.waverley.gov.uk

T 01483 52333

E enquiries@waverley.gov.uk

Emergencies

Emergencies (out of hours) **Tel: 02392 242161**

Council office opening hours

Mondays to Thursdays **8:45am – 5:15pm**
(Cash desk 9.00am – 4.45pm)

Fridays open **8:45am – 4:45pm**
(Fridays cash desk 9.00am – 4.15pm)
(Fridays planning desk 9.00am – 4.00pm)

Saturdays **9:00am – 12:00pm**
(Cash desk and some planning services only)
(Telephone enquiries Monday-Friday only)

Sundays **CLOSED**