



ashley park
DEBT SOLUTIONS

Solving Your Debt Guidance Sheet 2

Dealing with Council Tax



Solving Your Debt – Guidance Sheet 2 **Dealing with Council Tax**

The Council Tax system is used to part-fund the services your local Government provides. The rate of Council Tax you pay is dependent on the size of your property and what tax band it falls in.

For queries or information relating to your tax band you can contact the Valuation Office Agency or local council. Contact details for the Valuation Office Agency can be found within this booklet.

Are you overpaying?

If you believe your council tax banding is incorrect and you are being over-charged then you need to contact your local Valuation Office and go through their proper procedures. It is important however you continue to pay your council tax in full, whilst going through this process.

It is important that you check you are paying the correct amount of council tax. Even if the banding of your property is correct, you may still be able to reduce your council tax bill if any of the following applies to you;

- You live alone
- Your house is occupied by a mix of students and non-students
- Your house is only occupied by students
- You earn under £16,000 per year
- The property is empty
- The property is being renovated
- You have a second home
- You have a disability or carer
- You are willing to have cavity wall installations fitted

There are other reasons why you shouldn't have to pay council tax but you need to speak to your local citizens' advice bureau or your local council for further information.

Falling Behind with Payments

If you fall behind with your council tax payments, there is a chance that the council may make an application to issue you with a liability order at the Magistrates Courts.

If the council obtain a liability order it means they can then either use a bailiff to obtain the money from you, by taking possessions you own that equate to



the value of the debt. Alternatively they can deduct payments directly from your wage.

USEFUL CONTACTS

To contact your local Valuation Office Agency: Telephone : 0845 602 1507

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