

Important government changes to housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Who will be affected, how and when?

If you or your household	The change is	The date of the change	The effect of the change
are aged 25–35 single and live on your own	You will now receive the lowest rate of housing benefit which is the shared accommodation rate	from January 2012	Housing benefit payments will reduce
are working age council tax payers and receive council tax benefit	Council tax benefit will be replaced by more local support for council tax	From April 2013 Details of Leicester's scheme are currently being considered	Protection for some but many people who currently receive council tax benefit will have to start paying towards council tax
are working age and receiving housing benefit while renting a housing association or council property (social housing)	Reduced housing benefit payments to those who live in houses with more bedrooms than they need	From April 2013	housing benefit will be reduced by: 14% for 1 extra bedroom 25% for 2 or more extra bedrooms. There will be some exemptions
receive Local Housing Allowance (LHA)	LHA rates frozen from April 2012 and then increased in line with (<i>Consumer Price Index</i>)	From April 2013	the current connection with LHA rates and local rents charged will be lost
are working age and in receipt of benefits	Benefit rates are capped for working age households at £500 a week for a family £350 a week for people living by themselves	From April 2013	Larger families will lose more money when capping rules start There are some exemptions for example those in receipt of working tax credit some benefits are not included in the cap calculation
are working age people in receipt of benefits	The Department of Work and Pensions will administer a single benefit called Universal Credit	From Oct 2013 -2017	It will replace many benefits including housing benefit Some benefits are not included in Universal Credit

For more information on any of the above changes contact Revenues and Benefits

Telephone: **0116 252 7006**

Web: **leicester.gov.uk/housingbenefits**

Or visit: **direct.gov.uk**

