

## **SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **News release**

**17 July 2020**

### **COUNCIL TAX HARDSHIP FUND SET UP BY COUNCIL FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED**

Residents struggling to pay their Council Tax because of the Coronavirus outbreak can now apply to a hardship relief fund set up by South Lakeland District Council (SLDC).

Householders who are facing serious financial difficulty because of the Covid-19 economic downturn can seek help with this year's Council Tax by applying online for a discount on their bill.

The hardship fund has been created using SLDC's share of £500 million set aside by the Government in the Spring Budget for councils across England to help economically vulnerable residents.

Recognising the toll that financial troubles can take on people's wellbeing, SLDC is encouraging anyone who has fallen behind with their Council Tax payments to get in touch and find out how the council can help during these difficult times. That could include spreading their payments or seeking hardship relief to reduce their bill in the short term.

People can now apply online for hardship relief by completing the [Covid-19 Council Tax Hardship Application Form \(Doc 32KB / 4 Pages\)](#).

Applicants will need to supply details of their household, their income and outgoings as well as supporting bank statements.

**Cllr Suzie Pye, SLDC portfolio holder for Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience,**

said: "Some people may already have been experiencing challenging financial circumstances, and for others lockdown may have thrown them into a hardship they could never have foreseen. The Council Tax hardship fund is something we as a council can do to take a little bit of financial pressure off those in the greatest need."

Meanwhile, householders who already receive working age local Council Tax support will have their bills automatically reduced by £300. There is no need for them to apply to the hardship fund as the council will automatically apply the £300 discount. Revised Council Tax bills will be sent out to the thousands of eligible households as soon as the necessary arrangements have been put in place.

Council colleagues are busy working on this right now so please do bear with them while this work is completed, and continue to pay your existing amount until your new bill arrives in the post.

**Ends**

For more information, please contact the SLDC Communications Team on 01539 793300