



Apply for the Teignbridge Council Household Support Fund

Teignbridge Council has reopened the application process for a remaining £56,921, for households experiencing financial difficulties who **have not** received either a previous Household Support Fund payment and/or Cost of Living Payment.

The application process is available to provide short-term financial support to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food, energy and water bills, and other related essentials this winter who have not been supported with other cost of living payments. **The application process will not be awarding cash to applicants. Support will be provided for payment of goods/food vouchers etc.**

Households that have received the £650 cost of living payment either through direct payment from the DWP or through part of this overarching scheme will not be considered for a payment under this initial open application process.

Applicants must:

1. Be over the age of 16; and
2. Live in the Teignbridge District (as your main residence); and
3. Be without sufficient resources to meet the immediate short-term needs of themselves or dependents.
4. Have not received support through previous Household Support Fund awards
5. Have not received cost of living payments of £600 or more.

Not every application will be awarded, but many Teign Housing residents have made successful applications to help with their finances by allowing them to get funds for such things as school uniform, meaning their remaining income can pay their rent and ensure they keep their home.

Apply at [Household Support Fund - Teignbridge District Council](#)

Places now available for free holiday activities with meals this summer

The aim of the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition.

HAF sessions are free to eligible families, which includes school aged children and young people from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for and receiving benefit related free school meals, and their families.

They've got 40,000 places available for a range of activities including sports and coaching opportunities; indoor and outdoor play activities; outings to local parks and beaches; magic and circus skills; film making, arts and crafts; music; cooking; theatre workshops; yoga and mindfulness, and a lot more.

To access the programme, simply book a place through one of the registered providers - [HAF providers – Summer 2023 – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Please note that booking details differ depending on each provider. In order to book a place on a HAF scheme for 2023 in Devon you will receive a code via email direct from the council or from your school; you must show your HAF provider this code to book a place.



Grounds maintenance update

With the warm weather and a hosepipe ban in place across much of Devon, it's a challenging time for all gardeners! We continue our fortnightly grass cutting peak, working across our areas on land we own.

Recently we've had a few calls about hedge cutting. As it's bird nesting season, we follow the law and recommendation of the RSPB. They recommend avoiding hedge cutting during the main breeding season for nesting birds, which usually runs throughout March to August each year. This can be weather dependent and some birds may nest outside this period, so we always check carefully for active nests prior to cutting.

It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs.

It is an intentional act, for example, if we, you or your neighbour know there is an active nest in the hedge and still cut the hedge, damaging or destroying the nest or contents in the process. So we won't cut a hedge where we may cause harm.

Find out more on the RSPB website: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/garden-hedges/hedge-law/>

Mental Health Awareness Week

We held an event to raise funds for local charities, and raise awareness of mental health.

Mental Health Awareness Week ran from 15 to 21 May 2023. This year, it focussed on the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on our mental health.

During the event we shared information across the office, wore green and ran a cake competition. The £79 raised will go to local charities.

If you feel you would benefit from a referral to Head Start, please contact either your Neighbourhood Community officer or Independence and Wellbeing Advisor who will be happy to help. If you don't know who this is in your area, please call our Customer First Team on 01626 322722.





We had an incredible response to our **Teign Housing In Bloom** garden competition. The deadline to enter has closed, so judging will take place in July. We'll share information on the winners and their gardens in the edition.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter and to our resident judges. The standard is really high, and the time and effort put into creating great green spaces is inspiring.

Cost of Living Hacks workshop

Are you worried about your financial situation? Struggling to stay on top of your bills and manage your debt? Imagine a world where you feel confident and in control of your money.

Introducing free "Cost of Living Hacks" workshops, designed to equip you with invaluable advice, essential tools, and effective techniques to tackle the ever-growing cost-of-living crisis.

Secure your spot by booking now for Cosmic's upcoming workshops on either Friday 21 July at 12pm or Thursday 27 July at 10am. Book your free place here at [Eventbrite](#).

The Head-On programme is delivered by Cosmic, as part of the nationally recognised Multiply programme. These courses are open to anyone over the age of 19 in Devon (excluding Plymouth & Torbay), who doesn't have a grade C or above in Maths.

Widecombe Affordable homes to be advertised soon



Local people with a connection to Widecombe in the Moor who want to rent a new affordable home in the village are urged to register with Devon Home Choice so they can apply when properties are advertised later this year.

The first of eight new homes for rent in Teign Housing's new affordable Housing scheme at Brook Lane Cottages is expected to be advertised between July and early autumn 2023, about eight weeks before they are due to be finished.

Two one-bedroom, two two-bedroom and four three- bedroom homes will be marketed and [advertised on Devon Home Choice](#) for at least 13 days, probably in two or more batches.

To be considered, residents must have a housing need, a local connection and be currently registered with Devon Home Choice. Those already registered can [update their Devon Home Choice application](#) if they have not mentioned a local connection.

A local connection means living in the parish of Widecombe-in-the Moor for at least five years; having moved away within the past five years; worked in the parish for not less than 16 hours per week for at least 26 weeks; or have a strong connection through upbringing, employment or a need to provide substantial care for a family member who has lived in the parish for five years.

Priority will be given to applicants with a connection to the parish of Widecombe-in-the Moor and then to those with connections to the parishes of Buckland-in-the-Moor, Holne, Manaton, that part of Ilsington that is in the National Park and Dartmoor Forest.

Once registered, residents can bid on-line through the Devon Home Choice website as soon as the adverts are on the site.

Customer First Team shortlisted for national award

Our Customer First Team, who are the people who answer our main phone, web chat and email, were shortlisted for Small Contact Centre Of The Year Award.

Celebrating their 28th year in 2023, the UK National Contact Centre Awards are the longest running and the most highly respected programme in the UK.

We've worked hard to improve our customer service, including bringing in-house repair appointments and launching web chat. This year, we began delivering in-house call quality coaching to our team to ensure that we give the best possible service in every call by assessing the content of calls, including monitoring the sentiment. This includes reflection sessions with our call handlers to identify areas for improvement. Consequently, we have seen an increase in performance of 20% across the team.

We continue to build on this, looking to improve our performance.

Job roles at Teign Housing and Templer HomeBuild



You'll find our latest job roles on our website at [Careers - Teign Housing](#).
