

Housing Benefit is changing from April 2011 for Private Tenants

The Government is making changes to the way Housing Benefit is calculated from 1st April 2011.

- **Local Housing Allowance rates will reduce from 1st April 2011 for all new claims.**
- **From 1st April 2011 your Housing Benefit will not be more than the amount you pay for your rent (previously up to £15 extra per week was paid). This change will affect you the next time we review your Local Housing Allowance after 1st April 2011.**
- **If you are already claiming Housing Benefit your current Local Housing Allowance rate will be protected for at least nine months from 1st April 2011, unless your circumstances change.**
- **There will no longer be a five bedroom LHA rate. The maximum level will be the four bedroom rate.**
- **The LHA size criteria will include an additional bedroom if you or your partner has a need for overnight care that is provided by a non-resident carer. If you think this change may affect you please contact us.**

In addition to these LHA changes your Housing and Council tax Benefit is likely to reduce from 1st April 2011 if you have a non-dependant living with you.