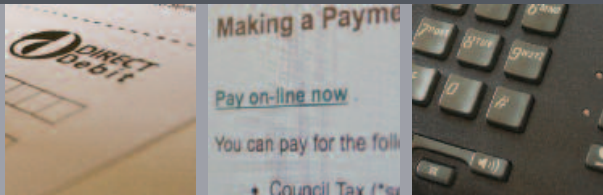


A better way to pay



Paying your council tax with our
convenient payment methods

Payment methods to suit you

There are more convenient ways to pay your council tax than by cheque or with cash.

Paying either by Direct Debit, Standing Order, over the telephone or online is a more efficient way of paying your council tax.

Paying by any of these methods means you can help us cut administration costs associated with cash and cheque payments, improve efficiency and keep future increases in council tax to a minimum.

Put your money away

Paying your council tax by cheque or cash leads to extra costs for the council.

In receiving cash and cheques we have to:

- Employ staff to open the mail
- Employ staff to administer cash payments
- Record cheque details individually on council tax accounts
- Bank cash and cheques
- Pay bank charges for each cheque banked

What is the best way to pay?

We've put together a list to highlight the advantages and disadvantages of each payment method to help you decide what is best for you.



Direct Debit - call 01590 646115 or newforest.gov.uk

Used by 8 out of 10 New Forest residents, Direct Debit is easier and cheaper for the council and the taxpayer than any other method. Call 01590 646115 to arrange by phone or visit the 'do it online' section of the council's website: newforest.gov.uk

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Payment dates on the 1st or 15th of the month• Advance notice of the amounts and dates always given• No need to remember to pay each month• Payments are automatically transferred from the taxpayer's bank account to the council's bank account on the due dates• Money-back guarantee• Continues from year to year but can be cancelled at any time• No more cheques to write or postage to pay• No more visits to council offices to pay by cash• Helps reduce administration costs	None

Standing Order

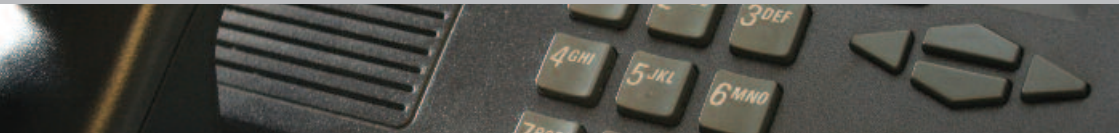
Almost as efficient as Direct Debit, but customers are required to set up the payment details with their bank each year, or when the amount changes. Contact your bank to arrange.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Payments automatically transferred from the taxpayer's bank account to the council's bank account on the due dates• No more cheques to write or postage to pay• No more visits to council offices to pay by cash• Helps reduce administration costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have to set up the details of dates and amounts to be paid with your own bank annually

Online payment - newforest.gov.uk

Our website service enables residents to pay their council tax at any time - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – using a bank debit or credit card. Visit the 'do it online' section of the council's website: newforest.gov.uk

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No additional charge for payments by debit card• Pay at any time of the day or night to suit your lifestyle• No more cheques to write or postage to pay• No more visits to council offices to pay by cash• Helps reduce administration costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have to remember to visit our website every time a payment is due• A 1.5% handling fee is added for credit card payments



Telephone payment - call 01590 646114

Our automated payment service means residents can pay their council tax at any time -24 hours a day, 7 days a week – using a bank debit or credit card.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No additional charge for payments by debit card• Pay at any time of the day or night to suit your lifestyle• No more cheques to write or postage to pay• No more visits to council offices to pay by cash• Helps reduce administration costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have to remember to phone every time a payment is due• A 1.5% handling fee is added for credit card payments