

A GUIDE TO BASIC BANK ACCOUNTS



Basic Bank Accounts

Basic bank accounts are now available to nearly everyone. Getting a bank account is easier than you might think and can help you to manage your finances better.

Why open a bank account?

- You can have Housing Benefit paid straight into your account
- You can pay your landlord and bills by standing order, direct debit, telephone banking or internet banking
- Cashing personal cheques can be difficult and expensive if you don't have a bank account
- Paying bills by direct debit can save you money on utility bills (check the arrangements directly with your fuel provider)
- Provides access to many other banking services
- Helps build a banking history

What services do basic bank accounts offer?

Services include:

- Direct Debits or Standing Orders
- Cash Card
- Telephone/internet Banking
- No minimum deposit to open an account

They do not usually include:

- Cheque books
- Overdraft Facilities
- Debit Cards (eg. Switch etc.)

Post Offices:

Most basic bank accounts also allow you to get money out at the post office as well as at cash machines.

How to open an account

You should contact the bank directly to open an account.

The information in this leaflet is only a guide to what 'basic bank accounts' offer, as Solihull Council are not qualified to give financial advice on which account option is best for you.

Basic bank/building society accounts.

The table below lists the different banks and building societies you can find in The area and the basic accounts they offer. This list is not exhaustive.

Name of bank/building paste	Type of account	Direct debits/ standing orders	Cheque Book	Cash card	Debit Card	Overdraft	Post Office access
ABBEY	Basic current account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	Basic cash account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
BARCLAYS	Cash card account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
CO-OPERATIVE BANK	Cashminder account	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
HALIFAX	Easycash account	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
HSBC	Basic bank account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
LLOYDS-TSB	Cash account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
NATIONWIDE	Basic flex account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
NATWEST	Step account	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND	Key accounts	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes

Opening a bank account - proving your identity

To open a bank account you must be able to provide proof of your name and address. Some of the things you can use to prove your name and address when opening a bank account are shown below. You will need to supply the bank with TWO different types of proof, one for proof of name and one for proof of address. Photocopies are not usually accepted. All forms of identity should be up to date.

Proof of name

Passport
 Driving licence
 Department of Work and Pensions benefit book/ entitlement letter
 EU Member State ID card
 UK based Bank or Building society statement
 HM Revenues & Customs tax notification
 National Insurance Number Card (under 18's)
 Birth/Adoption Certificate (under 18's only)
 Current family tax credit letter/book
 NHS Medical Card (under 18's only)
 Construction industry registration card
 EU Residence permit issued by the Home Office
 Firearms certificate

Blue disabled parking documents

Please note that if you provide insufficient ID or if any of the following apply (record of fraud, undischarged bankrupt, some bad debts) your application may be declined.

Proof of address

Driving licence
Utility bills, gas, water, electricity, telephone
(not mobile)
Sky or cable TV bill
Council Tax bill/payment book
Television Licence renewal notice
(if for current address)
UK Credit card statement
UK based bank, building society
or Credit Union statement
HM Revenues & Customs tax notification letter
Department of Work and Pensions benefit book/entitlement letter
Tenancy agreement (from local council,
Housing Association or letting agency)
Disabled parking documents (blue or orange)
NHS Medical Card (under 18's only)
Current Motor insurance certificate
Current Home insurance certificate
Firearms certificate

This list is for general guidance and should not be treated as a complete and authoritative guide to acceptable identification