



Basic Bank Accounts: A Guide

If you don't already have a bank account or want to open another one, it may be possible for you to open a basic bank account. Basic bank accounts are straightforward accounts offered by all major banks and available to most people.

There are few restrictions on who can open a basic bank account and you can't run up a large debt on the account. Even if you have financial problems or have had difficulties in the past, you will probably be able to open a basic account.



Why open a basic bank account?

- Having a bank account can make it easier to manage your money. With a basic bank account you can have benefits (including Housing Benefit), tax credits, pension or earnings paid straight into your account.
- Pay in cheques for free.
- You can take money out at cash machines with a cash card.
- You can withdraw money at any Post Office.
- You can pay bills automatically by Direct Debit (most accounts also let you pay by standing order).
 - Some utility bills, such as gas and electricity, offer a discount for paying by Direct Debit.
 - Paying by Direct Debit or standing order allows you to spread out bills and pay them monthly.

Important things to remember!

With a basic bank account can I get a cheque book?

No, with a basic bank account you don't get a cheque book.

What if there isn't enough money in the account to pay a Direct Debit or standing order?

With basic bank accounts you can't go overdrawn, so if you pay bills by Direct Debit or standing order and there isn't enough money in your account, the bank will not make the payment. Most banks charge a fee if this happens (see details overleaf). Always make sure there is enough money in your account to pay by Direct Debit or standing order.

Will I have to show ID to open an account?

Yes the law says that the banks must identify all new customers. You will need to show two forms of ID, one showing proof of identity and the other proof of address.

The tables in this leaflet give information on:

- Basic bank accounts available from banks in Newham.
- NewCred credit union accounts. NewCred is a not-for-profit organisation with the sole purpose of benefiting people who live or work in Newham.

They also show account features and the main types of ID the banks may accept, although you should check with the bank direct.

How do I open an account?

To get more information or to open an account, contact the bank direct or NewCred. Telephone numbers are shown in the table.





Basic accounts available in Newham

This table shows banks and building societies in Newham offering basic bank accounts. It also gives details on NewCred credit union accounts. The table gives general guidance only. Always check before opening an account that it offers the services you want.

BANK	NAME OF ACCOUNT	TELEPHONE NUMBER	DIRECT DEBITS (DD)	STANDING ORDERS (SO)	CHARGE FOR UNPAID SO/DD	CASH CARD	DEBIT CARD	POST OFFICE ACCESS	IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO YOU YOUR APPLICATION MAY BE DECLINED
Abbey National	Basic	0870 607 6000	Yes	Yes	£35	Yes	No	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Alliance & Leicester	Basic Cash Account	020 8519 1811	Yes	No	£34	Yes	No	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt
Barclays	Cash Card Account	0800 015 4996	Yes	Yes	£15	Yes	No	Yes	Record of fraud
Halifax	Easy Cash Account	0845 720 3040	Yes	Yes	£39	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
HSBC	Basic Bank Account	0800 130 130	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes	No	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Lloyds TSB	Cash Account	0845 300 0000	Yes	Yes	£35	Yes	No	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Nationwide Building Society	Flex Cash Card Account	0800 30 20 10	Yes	Yes	£30	Yes	No	Yes	Record of fraud
NatWest	Step Account	0845 00 11 2233	Yes	Yes	£38	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
NewCred community credit union	NewCred Account	020 8555 5388	No	Yes		No	No	No	

* The account may be closed if a Direct Debit is refused three times

Proof of ID and address

To open a bank or NewCred account, you will need to show two forms of identification:

- One showing proof of identity
- The other showing proof of address

This table shows the type of ID different banks in Newham may accept. The table gives general guidance only. Each bank or NewCred will give more detailed information.

ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF IDENTITY/RESIDENCE	ABBEY NATIONAL	ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	BARCLAYS	HALIFAX	HSBC	LLOYDS TSB	NATIONWIDE	NATWEST	NEWCRED
Current passport	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Full driving licence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
EU members national identity card	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Birth certificate (under 18s)	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Work and Pensions benefit entitlement letter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (asylum seekers only)		Yes
HB entitlement letter	Yes				See 3 below	See 2 below			See 1 below
Home Office ID/letter									Yes
Utility bills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Telephone bill			Yes		Yes				
NHS medical card (under 18s)	Yes	Yes							
Private tenancy agreement					Yes				Yes
Council tenancy agreement	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
Council rent card	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes			
Council Tax bill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Bank statement	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credit card statement	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	
Inland Revenue letter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		
Disabled drivers pass						Yes			
Residence permit				Yes		Yes			
Local Education Authority award (students)	Yes	Yes		Yes					
ID card from university (students)									
Letter from college (students)							Yes		Yes
Letter from someone in a position of responsibility, for example a teacher or GP					Yes				
National Insurance Number card with P45/P60		Yes				Yes			

1. NewCred can accept a Housing Benefit entitlement letter if this is accompanied by a full driving licence, birth certificate, employer or student ID with photograph or a Home Office ID or letter.

2. Lloyds TSB can accept a Housing Benefit entitlement letter if this is accompanied by another form of identity/residence.

3. HSBC will accept a Housing Benefit entitlement letter if this is accompanied by another form of identity/residence

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 5.00pm



CDBA/08/15

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