Basic Bank Accounts
A Guide

Why open a bank account?
- Provides a route to many other banking services
- Helps build a banking history
- You can make automated payments, such as paying bills by direct debits. Often there are discounts offered if you pay this way
- Budgeting is made easier, as paying bills by direct debit spreads payments out
- Cashing personal cheques can be difficult and expensive without a bank account
- You can have Housing Benefit paid straight into your bank account
- You can pay your landlord by standing order or direct debit

What services do basic bank accounts offer?
- Free automated transactions e.g. direct debits
- A cash card for use at cash machines
- Phone banking - call your bank to arrange standing orders, etc

Most basic bank accounts allow you to access your cash free of charge at any Post Office © branch, using your bank or building society cash card and Personal Identification Number PIN.

Most basic bank accounts will not give you a cheque book, overdraft or debit card, some banks may offer these facilities, subject to status. You will be able to make a telephone payment of a council bill, if a debit card is provided.

How to open an account
You should contact the banks directly to open a bank account.

The table shows the banks in Hull, the name of their ‘basic account’, and some of the services included.

It is not a requirement of basic bank accounts to have a minimum amount credited to the account each month.

When setting up an account the banks will need to see proof of your identity and residency. You should speak to your chosen bank about what documents they will accept as proof.

The table contained within this leaflet gives general guidance only and should not be treated as a complete and reliable guide to available accounts.

Hull City Council staff are not qualified to give financial advice on which account option is best for you. This information is only a guide to what ‘basic bank accounts’ are currently available.
Different types of basic bank account
This table shows which banks and building societies offer basic bank accounts and what services you can expect to get.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank name and any special name for the account</th>
<th>Minimum age to open an account</th>
<th>Minimum amount to open an account</th>
<th>Free buffer zone</th>
<th>Direct debits and standing orders</th>
<th>Charge for unpaid direct debit</th>
<th>Charge for unpaid standing order</th>
<th>Debit card (Solo, Electron or Maestro)</th>
<th>If any of the following apply to you your application may be declined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbey: Basic Account</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance &amp; Leicester: Basic Cash Account</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Direct debits only</td>
<td>£34</td>
<td>No standing orders</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of Scotland: Easycash</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£39</td>
<td>£39</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclays: Cash Card Account</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-operative Bank: Cashminder</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£19.50</td>
<td>£19.50</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax: Easycash</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£39</td>
<td>£39</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSBC: Basic Bank Account</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyds TSB: Cash Account</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide Building Society: Rex Cash Card</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>£1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natwest: Step Account</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£38</td>
<td>£38</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Bank of Scotland: Key Account</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£38</td>
<td>£38</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire Bank: Readycash</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Hull and East Yorkshire Credit Union: Current Account | 16 | £1 | No | Yes | £15 | £15 | Yes | Record of default |}

Explanatory notes
1 Correct at time of publication but always check with the bank or building society.
2 16 and 17 year olds can open a similar account.
3 The account may be closed if a direct debit is refused three times.
4 There is a £3 one off joining fee to become a Credit Union member.
5 A small amount of credit or overdraft that a bank may give you.

All these accounts accept Automated Credit Transfer (ACT) payments, offer cash withdrawals at the post Office®, and a cash machine card. None of them offer a cheque book.

The above details were taken from the Financial Services Authority booklet on basic bank accounts.
Source: British Banker’s association, July 2007 and Hull and East Yorkshire Credit Union.
Details were correct at time of going to print but are subject to change. Please check with the organisations involved directly.
We will update these details as required.