



## Basic bank account

Basic bank accounts are simple to use and most high street banks and building societies offer them. Some advantages of having a basic bank account include:

- Having your wages or benefit paid into the account
- Getting money out using a cash card
- Paying bills by standing order and/or direct debits
- You cannot go overdrawn

To open a basic bank account, you need to ask for it by name. You will need to take two separate documents that confirm who you are and where you live, for example:

- A passport
- Gas, electricity or water bill

If you do not have any of these, the bank or building society should be willing to accept other documents, for example:

- A letter to the bank confirming your identity from a responsible person who knows you, for example a social worker or teacher
- A letter confirming your rights to state benefits

If you don't have these either, you can ask for the list of other forms of identification that they will accept. Or ask them to refer your application to someone who is authorised to decide in exceptional cases.

For further information on proving your identify and basic bank accounts and who provides them, get the leaflets:

- Just the facts about basic bank accounts and Just the facts about proving your identify or visit [www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk](http://www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk)

## Credit Union

Credit unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members. They have the added bonus of being local, ethical and know what their members want. They offer:

- Savings accounts
- Cheap, low interest flexible loans

You can have your salary, pension or benefit paid into an account and borrow up to three times the amount of your savings. To join a credit union you must live or work within the borough it serves. You will also need two forms of identification, one showing your date of birth, the other showing your address.

### **Proof of identify includes:**

- Birth certificate
- Up to date UK Passport
- UK photo-card driving licence
- Home Office ID/letter
- Employer or student ID card (with photograph)

### **Confirmation of address includes:**

- Council Tax/gas/electricity bill
- Rent book
- Confirmation of study/training
- Bank statement less than three months old

### **Contact**

#### **Waltham Forest Community Credit Union**

Harmony Hall  
10 Truro Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 7BY

**Telephone: 020 8520 8740**

[www.wfccu.org](http://www.wfccu.org)

**email:** enquiries@wfccu.org

#### **Opening hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
9.30am-4.30pm

Saturday  
10am-2pm