

Basic Bank Accounts

A basic bank account allows you to receive money and pay bills.

It can be a first step towards opening a regular current account later on. Lots of banks and some building societies offer basic bank accounts. We have listed a selection of local banks that offer these types of account in this leaflet, together with details of local branches, how to apply and what other features the accounts offer. We would recommend that you apply to a bank that offers the facility to open the account in the branch. This is the quickest method and allows you to get your identity and documents checked in branch. You will also be able to find out your account number and sort code straight away.

Additionally if claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax benefit and you want to apply to Lloyds TSB we have an agreement that they will accept our Confirmation of Identity letter as proof of your identity and residency. This differs from their normal requirements and means that you only need to give the proof once to Merton. They will also assist you in filling in a Direct Credit (BACS) form so that you can receive your Housing Benefit directly to the account.

Other useful information about basic bank accounts:

Websites:

London Borough of Merton website:

Money Advice - www.merton.gov.uk/benefits/moneyadvice




Basic Bank accounts for Housing Benefit Customers - www.merton.gov.uk/living/benefits/hb-ctb/basicbankaccountshbctb

General Information about Basic Bank Accounts:




Financial Services Authority Money Made Clear website - <http://www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk/home.html>

http://www.moneyfacts.co.uk/banking/bestbuys/banking_basic_bank_accounts.aspx




Application methods

Name of bank	Name of account	In branch (recommended)	Accounts processed	Online 	Phone 	Postal 	Other features	Access to cash	Local Branches
Abbey	Basic Current account	Yes - call in or phone 0845 765 4321 for an appointment	By central processing centre	No	No	No	Cannot use the local counter services	see application pack at branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 London Road MORDEN Surrey Tel 0845 765 4321 • 3-5 Queens Road Wimbledon LONDON Tel: 0845 765 4321
Alliance & Leicester	Basic Cash Account	Yes - call in or phone 0800 068 66 99 quoting ref CUR14 for an appointment.	By central processing centre	No	No	No		Cash withdrawals up to £250 at A&L and LINK cash machines and at A&L branches and Post Office Counters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 High Street Sutton SM1 1JF Tel: 020 8642 2385 Fax: 020 8643 9610





Application methods

Name of bank	Name of account	In branch (recommended)	Accounts processed	Online 	Phone 	Postal 	Other features	Access to cash	Local Branches
Barclays	Cash Card Account	Yes -call in or phone 08457 555 555 for an appointment	Central processing centre	No	No	No		Free cash withdrawals up to £300 from Barclays, Woolwich or Post Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/20 Morden Road Sth Wimbledon SW19 3BN • 42 Coombe Lane West Wimbledon London SW20 0LB • 29/31 Upper Green East Mitcham CR4 2PF • 11 The Broadway Wimbledon London SW19 1PS • Barclays House Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7JZ • Tel 08457 555 555 (all branches)
Co-operative Bank	Cashminder	Yes - call into local branch	Central processing centre	No	Yes - call 08457 212 212	No	Visa Electron debit card	Free cash withdrawals at LINK machines and Co-Op branches	91 George Street Croydon CR0 1LD Tel: 08457 212 212





Application methods

Name of bank	Name of account	In branch (recommended)	In branch applications processed by:	Online 	Phone 	Postal 	Other features	Access to cash	Local Branches
Halifax	Easycash	No - but can pick up a pack	Not applicable	Yes	No	Yes	Visa Electron debit card	Free cash withdrawals up to £300 from Halifax, RBS, LINK cash machines and Post Office counters. Withdrawals of more than £300 can be made at branch counters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Majestic Way, Mitcham, CR4 2JS Tel: 020 8918 9305 • Unit 116C, Centre Court, London, SW19 8YA Tel: 020 8258 9907
HSBC	Basic Bank Account	Yes - call into local branch	in branch (recommended)	No	Yes - call 0800 032 4738	No		Free cash withdrawals up to £200 from HSBC & LINK cash machines and Post Office counters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 102 London Road Morden Surrey SM4 5AY • 241 London Road, Mitcham Surrey CR4 3NH Tel: 08457 404 404 Fax: 02089 194 610

Application methods

Name of bank		In branch (recommended) 	Accounts processed	Online 	Phone 	Postal 	Other features	Access to cash	Local Branches
Lloyds TSB	Cash account	Yes - Call 0845 3000000 for appt at local branch or call in to local branch	In branch (recommended)	No	No	No	Merton Confirmation of Identity letter is accepted as proof of identity and residence.	Free cash withdrawals up to £200 from Lloyds TSB cash machines and Post Office counters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66 London Road Morden SM4 5BB 3 St George's Road Wimbledon SW19 4DR 9 Majestic Way, St Marks Place Mitcham CR4 2YY <p>Tel: 0845 300 0000</p>
Nationwide	Flex Cash card	Yes - Call into local branch	Central processing centre	No	No	No		Free cash withdrawal up to £300 from cash machines. And Post Office branches. Up to £500 from local branches. More than £500 from local branches with 48 hours notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 London Road Morden Tel: 020 82589700 Fax: 020 82589706 251 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3XS Tel: 020 82589800 Fax: 020 82589806

Application methods

Name of bank		In branch (recommended) 	Accounts processed	Online 	Phone 	Postal 	Other features	Access to cash	Local Branches
NatWest	Step account	Yes - call into local branch	central processing centre	Yes	Yes - call 0800 200 400	No	Solo debit card	Free cash withdrawal of £1000 at cash machines. Up to £5000 at branches. Cash withdrawal up to £300 at Post Office counters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Crown Lane Morden SM4 5BN Tel: 0845 301 7965 • 282 London Road Mitcham CR4 2ZP Tel: 0845 301 7523 • 16 Wimbledon Hill Road London SW19 7NN Tel: 0845 301 7969 • 98 High Street London SW19 5UA Tel: 0845 301 7970 • 64 High Street New Malden KT3 4HB Tel: 0845 303 7048
Royal Bank of Scotland	Key account	Yes - call into local branch	central processing centre	Yes	Yes - call 0800 121 129	No	Solo debit card	Free cash withdrawals at almost all cash machines up to £300. Withdrawals at RBS branches and Post Office Counters.	216-220 High Street Sutton SM1 1NU Tel: 020 8 643 0022