



personal budgets

Making the most of your money

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Using a personal budget planner can help you to make the most of your money. It shows you:

- how much money is coming into your household (income),
- what you need to spend it on (outgoings),
- how much you have left over - or not!



Budget planning can also help you to save money or plan for the future.

The first step is to find out what your total “income” is for a week or a month – all the regular amounts of money that you receive.

Secondly add up your “outgoings” – all the bills and other sums of money that you need to pay regularly. Be as honest and accurate as you can, as this will help make your budget planner really effective.

Finally, take away your “outgoings” from your “income” and this will tell you what, if any, is left. By knowing how much money you have left over each month, you can keep control of your spending, build up savings and avoid falling into debt.



Personal Budget form

Make sure that you do not mix monthly and weekly figures in any of your calculations.

INCOME	£.
Wages / Salary or Pension (1)	
Wages / Salary or Pension (Partner)	
Jobseekers Allowance	
Income Support or Pension Credit	
Working / Child Tax Credit	
Child Benefit	
Maintenance (2)	
Housekeeping from family (3)	
Other income	
Total Income (A)	

OUTGOINGS	£.
Rent / Mortgage	
Council Tax (4)	
Water rates (5)	
Gas / Oil (6)	
Electricity	
TV licence / rental / satellite / cable (7)	
Court fines (8)	
Maintenance payments (9)	
Hire purchase / lease essential items (10)	
Housekeeping (11)	
Travelling expenses (12)	
Meals (13)	
Clothing (14)	
Health costs (15)	
Phone & Mobile (16)	
Child minding	
Loan repayments (17)	
Credit Union Payment / Savings (18)	
Socialising	
Other items	
Total Outgoings (B)	
Surplus (A – B)	

- (1)** The amount after all deductions, eg tax and National Insurance. Do not include any overtime or bonuses unless you receive them every month.
- (2)** From an Ex partner or the CSA
- (3)** Include any regular income from your children or lodger
- (4)** Council Tax can normally be paid over 10 monthly instalments
- (5)** Water Rates can be paid over 8 months.
- (6)** Work out your approximate monthly cost by adding last years' bills together and divide by 12 (months) or 52 (weeks).
- (7)** TV licence is free if you are over 75 or half price if you are registered blind or partially sighted.
- (8)** You can be jailed for not paying court fines, so ensure that these are included if you have them
- (9)** Include payments ordered by court, child support agency and any voluntary payments
- (10)** If you are buying an item you must keep up the payments or you may lose it.
- (11)** This should include everything you buy at the supermarket, local shops and day to day needs.
- (12)** include all transport costs for school, shopping and work. If you are running a car this should cover car tax, insurance, MOT, repairs, servicing and petrol/diesel.
- (13)** Include all meals not prepared from home, eg school meals.
- (14)** Remember to include school uniform
- (15)** Include prescription and dental costs.
- (16)** Do not include any outstanding balance, only your day to day calls and the line rental
- (17)** Include repayments for any borrowing you have
- (18)** By saving with Aylesbury Credit Union, you can access loans favourable rates – see our leaflet on the credit union for more details

Maximise money-saving

As well as being aware of how much you are spending, make sure that you take advantage of opportunities to save money for the same services.

Some companies offer discounts for paying by certain methods, for example Direct Debit. Paying a smaller amount regularly can make it easier to budget for larger bills. However, others charge extra for paying by instalments.

Consider shopping around for the best deal for your fuel. Change from a prepayment meter if you can and pay by direct debit to get the cheapest quotes. You can use our free internet service at the Trust to search for the cheapest provider.

Are you eligible for free prescriptions? Ring **0800 917 7711** for advice. If not, you may find it cheaper to buy a prepayment certificate for your prescriptions.

If you are receiving income support or income based job seekers allowance, your children are entitled to free school meals.

We often print information that can help you save money in Residents News, which you can find on our website, **www.vaht.co.uk/newsletters**

Useful Contacts

Aylesbury Vale District Council 01296 585858

Citizens Advice - Helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free, independent and confidential advice.

Local offices:

Aylesbury: **0870 126 4056**

Buckingham: **01280 816707**

Dunstable: **01582 661384**

Leighton Buzzard: **01525 373878**

Thame: **01844 214827**

Tring: **01442 825775**

www.citizensadvice.org.uk or **www.adviceguide.org.uk**

Money Made Clear - The site of the Financial Services Authority giving impartial advice on all financial matters phone: **0300 500 5000**

Monday - Friday 8am-8pm Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm

or **www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk**

This item can be downloaded from our website and is available in large print, on tape, on CD or by email - please call the Marketing Department on 01296 732600. Please make us aware of anyone you know who may need this kind of help.

یہ نیوز لیٹر ویل آف ایلزبری ہاؤسنگ ٹرسٹ کی جانب سے ہے جو جولائی 2009 میں ایلزبری ویل ڈسٹرکٹ کونسل سے آپ کے گھروں کی مستقبل میں ملکیت اور انتظام کی ذمہ داری سنبھال لے گا۔ مفت ترجمے کیلئے 01296 425334 پر فون کریں۔

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