

Cost of Tenancy

A Householders Guide

At North Star, we know that moving into a new home can be both stressful and expensive and we are committed to helping our customers through this as well as ensuring that their tenancy can be sustained.

We know that many tenants, particularly if this is their first home, are not prepared for the cost involved in running a home.

In order to help you when deciding if you can afford to move into a tenancy we have produced this guide to show how much running your home will cost.

Please note this is a guide only.

Budgeting loans?

If you are in receipt of some benefits, you may be able to apply for a budgeting loan to help pay for essential furniture. These are interest free so you only pay back the amount you borrow.

For more information on budgeting loans, contact your Jobcentre plus or visit www.direct.gov.uk

Fuel Costs

As soon as your tenancy begins you can find out who supplies your gas and electricity by contacting Transco for your gas on 0870 6081 524 and NEDL for your electricity on 0845 6013 268.

Getting your gas and electricity from one supplier will generally generate a discount. The figures listed below are a guide only and are based on an average combined gas and electricity annual bill. Bills will be higher in the winter than the summer months.

You will also be responsible for water charges. These can vary dependent if you have a water meter or not.

Average weekly costs

	One bed Flat	Two Bed House	3 Bed House (2 children)
Rent*	£76.60	£86.40	£94.93
Council Tax* (Band A)	£21.20		
Council Tax* (Band B)		£24.74	
Council Tax* (Band C)			£28.27
Gas/Electric	£11.75	£20.65	£28.00
Water	£6.45	£8.05	£8.05
Food/Housekeeping	£44.00	£88.00	£142.00
Total	£160.00	£227.84	£301.25

*Housing/Council Tax Benefit may reduce this



You will also need:

A TV licence. A colour licence is £145.50 and £49.00 for a black and white licence per year. You can set up a direct debit online by visiting www.tvlicensing.co.uk or if you would like a TV licence payment card, contact 0300 555 0286.

Home Insurance – We can provide home insurance through Marsh with weekly premiums starting from 83p. Your Housing Officer will be able to provide more information.

Other Bills

You may need to pay for other bills such as telephone and car insurance. One way to make sure you get the best deal is to compare prices of different companies. The best and easiest way to do this is on the internet.



Some Useful Website Addresses

www.moneysupermarket.com

www.energywatch.org.uk

www.uswitch.com

www.simplyswitch.com

www.moneysavingexpert.co.uk

When moving into your home, you will also need the following items for each room which can include the following:

Kitchen:

Cups/Mugs/Plates and Bowls/Glasses

Pans

Knives/Forks

Kettle

Cooker/Oven

Front Room:

Sofa

Television

Curtains

Bedroom:

Bed

Bedding

Wardrobe/Drawers

Curtains

Bathroom:

Towels

Other:

Iron and Ironing Board

Vacuum Cleaner

Personal Budget

The personal planner gives you an idea on how much money you will need to budget if you have a tenancy with us.

Income	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Wages/Salary			
Child Maintenance			
Benefits i.e. JSA/ Income Support			
Other DWP Benefits/ Income			
Total Income			
Outgoings	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Rent			
Water			
Council Tax			
Gas/Electricity			
Food			
General Housekeeping			
Travel Costs i.e Bus Fares/Petrol			
Telephone			
House Insurance			
Clothes			
TV Licence			
Other Insurances			
Phone - Landline/Mobile			
Credit Cards			
Loans			
Court Orders			
Catalogues			
Fines			
Maintenance Payment			
Internet/Satellite TV			
Prescriptions			
Magazines/Books			
Savings			
Social Costs ie. Cigarettes/Alcohol			
Total Expenditure			



Your home



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What's Left?

If you have any money left over, you can save it for emergencies such as a washing machine breaking down or Christmas.

If you want to save money, Credit Unions are not-for-profit community organisations that offer local savings schemes. They are regulated in the same way as high street banks so your money is safe.

For more about how you can save and your nearest credit union, contact www.northernmoney.org.uk or speak to your housing officer.



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