



There's no better place

# Cost of running a home

## Helping you budget

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## Overview

### Introduction

This guide helps you see how much it could cost to run a household. It is particularly valuable for people taking on a home for the first time, moving to a new home or people that need help staying in control of the costs of running their home.

### Summary of household costs

It's important to work out how much it would cost to run a home and how much you need to budget ahead of your move. Here is a rough guide of some of the costs involved. To find a full summary go to the back of this booklet.

Total home running costs	Single with no children	Single with children	Couple with no children	Couple with children
Weekly	£282.25	£309.99	£346.68	£414.24
Monthly	£1,249.96	£1,372.85	£1,502	£1,829.49

### New tenancy

There are some costs you need to consider before moving into your home.

- ✓ rent – it needs to be paid before you get your keys
- ✓ furniture (for example beds, couches, chairs, curtains, carpets, cooker, washing machine, fridge and vacuum cleaner)
- ✓ weekly household costs (food, gas and electricity, telephones and travel)
- ✓ removal of your personal belongings from your previous home to your new home
- ✓ a deposit for any services or goods you require in your new home.

### Rent

**More and more of our customers are paying their rent through the easiest and cheapest method – Direct Debit.**

It is easy to set up a Direct Debit to pay your rent, you just need a bank account.



## Simple ways to pay

- ✓ Direct Debit
- ✓ Online
- ✓ In person
- ✓ Telephone

We also accept payment by Chip and Pin (Debit and Credit Cards), allowing you to pay your rent and Council Tax in one easy payment.

To prevent you falling into arrears, you must make your first rent payment before you get the keys to your new home. You may also have to pay service charges or support charges. These charges vary for different property types.

**For information regarding benefits please contact your letting agent.**

It is your responsibility to budget and pay your rent. Paying your rent must always be your first priority. If you do not pay your rent, you will lose your home.

**For further information on anything in the document speak to your letting officer.**

### Council Tax and water rates

Council Tax must be paid in addition to your rent for the general service provided by your local council (payments are usually collected over 10 months between April and January).

If you live in a property on your own or with dependants, you will receive a 25% discount on your Council Tax bill (you will need to apply for this).

#### Council Tax support scheme

If you are on a low income or receiving Housing Benefit support you may get financial support with your Council Tax.

**Everyone needs to pay the full water and waste water charge, even if eligible for full council tax support.**

## Glasgow Council Tax charges 2015/16

Council Tax band	Council Tax charge	Water charge	Waste water charge	Total per year	Weekly water and sewerage cost if you receive Council Tax support
A	£808.67	£128.78	£149.46	<b>£1,082.57</b>	£6.95 (approx)
B	£943.44	£150.22	£174.37	<b>£1,262.99</b>	£8.12 (approx)
C	£1,078.22	£171.68	£199.28	<b>£1,443.42</b>	£9.27 (approx)
D	£1,213.00	£193.14	£224.19	<b>£1,623.85</b>	£10.43 (approx)



# Gas and electricity

## Gas and electricity

Typical costs for dual fuel (both gas and electricity).

	Per week	Monthly
1-bed flat	£18	£72
2-bed flat	£22	£88
3-bed flat	£27	£111
4-bed flat	£32	£130

If you have a bank account, you can get discounted deals for your gas and electricity (dual fuel) which will save you money. Your bills will be higher in the winter.

Energy prices are rising and costs are different across suppliers. Pre-payment meters can be more expensive. When you move in, take meter readings and keep these for your records.



## TV Licence

If you have a TV in your home you must buy a TV Licence. This includes the use of devices such as a computer, laptop, mobile phone or DVD/video recorder. If you don't have a licence you could end up with a criminal record.

### Licence

Week	£5.60 (for first licence)
Month	£24
Quarter	£37.50
Year	£145.50

(26 May 2015 –  
[www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk))

A TV Licence is free if you're aged 75 and over. For more informations visit their website: [www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk)

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## Cost of running a home

### Telephone – landline /mobile

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BT line rental is £15.45 per month, plus you need to pay for your calls. Other suppliers of landlines may have different costs. (You will need a telephone line for broadband internet access). If you have a mobile phone please make sure you include the cost of your contract or topping up your pay-as-you-go deal as part of your budget.

### Food and other household expenses

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Below are some costs to consider:

- ✓ school meals can be around £7 per week. Low income families or families with income-based benefits may receive free school meals (application forms are available from your local council)
- ✓ one-day travel bus tickets are around £4 per day or £16.50 a week
- ✓ you should allow £5 per person a week for clothing
- ✓ food: allow up to £50 per week per adult and around £25 per child (excluding school meals)
- ✓ pet food, vet bills, medication and kennels
- ✓ extras: do you socialise, smoke, drink or gamble?
- ✓ how much do you spend on these?

If anyone has special diets, or medical needs, you may need to budget more.

If you are aged 60 and over, or you are an eligible disabled person, you are entitled to free travel on local bus services and some train services.

**You will need to apply for a national entitlement card. Call 0141 333 3211 (SPT) or go to the website: [www.spt.co.uk/travelcards/concessions](http://www.spt.co.uk/travelcards/concessions)**

**The Money Advice Service offer free impartial advice on how to manage your money. Visit their website: [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)**

## Summary of weekly costs

	Single with no children	Single with children	Couple with no children	Couple with children
Average rent one-bedroom	Around £82.16 per week		Around £82.16 per week	
Average rent two-bedroom	Approx £115.38 per week	Approx £115.38 per week	Approx £115.38 per week	Approx £115.38 per week
Average rent two-bedroom		Around £82.16 per week	Around £83.92 per week. (could be subject to bedroom tax)	Around £82.16 per week
Council Tax (based on Band D – not including water and sewerage)	£20.16 per week (if receiving single person discount)	£20.16 per week (if receiving single person discount)	£37.32	£37.32
Water rates	£8.70	£8.70	£8.70	£8.70
Gas and electric	Around £18 per week	Around £22 per week	Around £18 per week	Around £22 per week
TV Licence (it is an offence not to have one)	£5.60 per week	£5.60 per week	£5.60 per week	£5.60 per week
Telephone (landline)	£3.56 weekly line rental + calls	£3.56 weekly line rental + calls	£3.56 weekly line rental + calls	£3.56 weekly line rental + calls
Telephone (mobile)	Average weekly contract £3.46 per week	Average weekly contract £3.46 per week	Two average contracts £6.92 per week	Two average contracts £6.92 per week
Food	£50 per week	£75 per week (excluding school meals – one child)	£100 per week	£125 per week (excluding school meals – one child)
Smoker *	£35 per week	£35 per week	£70 per week	£70 per week
School meals	Nil	£7 per week per child	Nil	£7 per week per child
Clothing	£5 per week	£10 per week (based on one child)	£10 per week	£15 per week (based on one child)
Travel (Glasgow week pass)	£16.50	£16.50 + any extra child travel	£31	£31.00 + any extra child travel
<b>Total weekly home running costs</b>	<b>£230.21 **</b>	<b>£287.36 ***</b>	<b>£336.48 **</b>	<b>£377.48 ***</b>

\* Cigarettes not included in total weekly home running costs

\*\* based on rent of 1 bedroom property

\*\*\* based on rent for 2 bed property

All totals, where applicable, are based on cost of one child

**Actual costs may be  
higher or lower depending  
on location, house type  
and other factors.**



# Running a car weekly costs

	Single with no children	Single with children	Couple with no children	Couple with children
Insurance (based on an annual cost £350)	£6.80 per week	£6.80 per week	£6.80 per week	£6.80 per week
Fuel	£25 per week	£25 per week	£25 per week	£25 per week
Road Tax (based on an annual cost £175)	£3.37 per week	£3.37 per week	£3.37 per week	£3.37 per week
Total running a car cost	£35.17	£35.17	£35.17	£35.17





## My personal money planner

Income	Weekly equivalent	Expenditure	Weekly equivalent
Net earnings (you)		Rent	
Net earnings (partner)		Rent arrears	
Child Benefit		Overpayment deduction	
Child Tax Credits		Council Tax	
Working Tax Credits		Council Tax Arrears	
Incapacity Benefit / Employment Support Allowance		Car (including insurance and running costs)	
Jobseeker's Allowance		Food / housekeeping	
Income Support		Electricity	
State pension		Credit cards	
Pension Credit		Car, MOT, insurance, fuel	
Work / occupational pension		Loans / hire purchase	
Maintenance		Travel	
Carers' allowance		Telephone (house)	
DLA / PIP		Telephone (mobile)	
Universal Credit		Broadband	
Other		Cigarettes / alcohol	
		Maintenance / child support	
		Life insurance	
		Clothes	
		Child expenses	
		School meals	
		Pet costs (food / insurance / vet)	
		Work meals	
		Health costs (glasses etc)	
		Catalogue / Provident	
		Other	
Total (A) add all of the above		Total (B) add all of the above	

**Weekly equivalent =  
(monthly amount x 12)  
divided by 52**

**Disposable income = (A) – (B)**

If this amount is negative (minus), you will be paying out more each week than coming in. This means you are in risk of getting into debt and you need to look at what you are spending if you are to afford your own home.

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**Need further information?**  
We're happy to help

Telephone | 0800 561 6666  
Email | [info@lowtherhomes.com](mailto:info@lowtherhomes.com)  
Online | [www.lowtherhomes.com](http://www.lowtherhomes.com)

