



The Real Cost of Running a Home

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Barrow Borough Council Housing Service is committed to helping tenants sustain their tenancies. This information gives you an idea of the costs involved and will help you decide if this is the right time financially for you to be taking on a tenancy.

There are lots of other costs besides your rent you need to budget for. If you fall behind with paying your rent, legal proceedings will be started which could result in your losing your home.

Here is an example of what the average weekly cost of running a home may be, depending upon your circumstances (prices as at Jan 2015).

Typical example of weekly expenses for one-bedroomed flat		
Rent	£71.00	Average weekly rent
Council Tax	£20.35	Per week in Band A
Gas/Electric	£25.00	Weekly on pre-payment meters
Water	£8.00	Per week
TV Licence	£5.60	Per week
Housekeeping	£50.00	Weekly including food and household expenses
TOTAL	£179.95	

These are the basic costs for running a one-bedroomed flat.

Other areas you may need to consider are:

- ▶ Mobile phone cost
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Household Insurance

Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) amounts (as at Nov 2016):

- ▶ Age 18-24 years—£57.90 per week
- ▶ Age over 25 years—£73.10 per week

Please consider this carefully before accepting a tenancy.

Do you need help to manage your tenancy?

Our Money Management Advisor , Jo Hughes, can provide a wide range of support to help you manage your tenancy, including rent/water charges etc. by assessing your income and helping you budget.

She can also help with issues such as setting up basic bank accounts/payment arrangements , housing and welfare benefits, lending and savings plans, energy and utility savings, contents insurance and arranging access to specialist debt advice agencies.

If you are a new Council tenant or an existing tenant and think you could benefit from this help, please contact Jo Hughes on (01229) 876534.



Barrow Borough Council • Housing Department

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OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Monday to Friday: 9am - 4pm

Telephone enquiries : Monday to Thursday: 8:30am to 5pm (4.30pm on Fridays)

If you require this leaflet in large print/audio or another language please contact the Housing Service and we will arrange for this to be carried out tel. (01229) 876578