

# It All Adds Up!

Your personal monthly household budget planner made easy.....

Each month we are faced with lots of expenses to pay and the question of how to make our income go far enough to cover them. Firstly, we need to establish which bills must be paid and are out of our control, which ones we can control and then those that we can either cut back on or cut out. Imagine your expenses are like traffic lights, red cannot be ignored, the bills you have to pay, whilst green light expenses such as takeaways or DVD's won't stop you in your tracks.

To make this a less daunting task to do, why not put together your personal household budget plan? This will help you decide which bills are unavoidable and which can make life a lot easier by reducing or cutting out. And once you've done your monthly budget, stick to it. It all adds up!

Follow these easy steps to see how you are doing and you can make life a little easier.....



### Not to be ignored...

Red light expenses such as rent and Council Tax can't be ignored. If we don't pay, we may end up in the Sheriff Court with a court order to pay or even evicted for rent arrears.

### Requires some control...

These expenses are required but are more in our control. For example, they could be reduced or in some cases even cut out. For instance, we could become more energy efficient to reduce our heating bills, or, the way we pay them can be spread out, by for example setting up a monthly direct debit.

### Won't stop you in your tracks...

These are luxuries that are nice to have but shouldn't stop us paying our more important bills. They are items that should be a treat with any cash left over each month, such as a takeaway, videos or holiday.

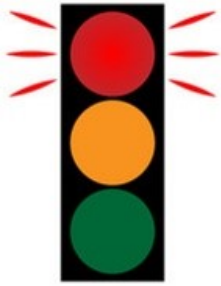
## Do Your Sums...

### Step 1. List Your household income

	Monthly
Job Earnings	
Partner's Job Earnings	
Child Benefit	
Universal Credit	
Pension	
Other Benefits	
Rental Income (lodger)	
Other	
<b>Total Monthly Income</b>	



## Step 2. What are your *must pay* expenses?



Monthly		Monthly	
Rent		Council Tax	
Television Licence		Water rates	
Court fines		Other.....	
<b>Total Monthly</b>			

**A**

## Step 3. What bills *can you control*?



Monthly		Monthly	
Electricity		Groceries	
Fuel for heating		School lunches	
Home Insurance		Clothing	
Telephone/mobile/landline		Education costs	
Broadband		Clothing	
Travel to work/bus/train		Cleaning expenses	
Vehicle payments/loans		Pet foods	
Vehicle insurance		Hairdressers	
Vehicle maintenance/repairs		Vets and pet care/insurance	
Vehicle Licence Fee		Health insurance	
Fuel for Vehicle		Life insurance	
Other travel		Medical/dentist charges	
House maintenance		Opticians expenses	
Appliances and furniture		Pension contributions	
Child Care		Payments to savings	
Loans/Student loans		Memberships/subs	
Credit card payments		Magazines	
Arrears		Other.....	
Bank charges and fees		Other.....	
<b>Total Monthly</b>			

**B**

## Step 4. What are your luxuries?



Monthly		Monthly	
Cigarettes/tobacco		Holidays/travel	
Alcohol		Outings	
Takeaways		Gadgets	
DVDs		Sports	
TV Viewing subscriptions		Music	
Cinema/concerts/theatre		Other	
<b>Total Monthly</b>			

**C**

## Does it all add up?



Total Monthly <b>A</b>	
<b>add</b> Total Monthly <b>B</b>	
<b>add</b> Total Monthly <b>C</b>	
<b>equals</b> Total Monthly Expenses	

Total Monthly Income	
<b>minus</b> Total Monthly Expenses	
<b>Balance / surplus</b>	