

We make banking easy for Councils



Castle Bromwich Parish Council



I wholeheartedly recommend Unity as being helpful, patient, responsive, understanding – all the things that many banks fail to deliver.

It is a delight to have established a proper relationship with a bank and still be dealing with the same person I initially made contact with, who is exceptionally knowledgeable about the parish and town Council sector.

It is exciting to have a bank that is committed to the communities of its customers.”

Cathy Tibbles
Clerk to the Parish Council
Castle Bromwich Parish Council

We make banking easy for Councils because:

- ✓ We offer bank accounts tailored for your needs
- ✓ Our expert team understand your sector
- ✓ Changing signatories is straightforward
- ✓ Depositing your money is local and convenient
- ✓ Making payments is simple and secure

We are socially focussed and financially sustainable too. This is why hundreds of parish, community and town Councils choose to work with Unity.

We offer bank accounts tailored for your needs

A current account exclusively for Councils and an instant access deposit account are available. Interest is paid on all balances and fees are negotiable based on account activity.

Our current account comes with a cheque book, regular online or paper statements and access to our governance friendly Internet Banking service.

Find out more about Internet Banking overleaf.

Our expert team understand your sector

Our team of relationship managers have experience of opening bank accounts for hundreds of parish, community and town Councils. They work with your Council throughout the application process and can help you complete the application and answer any queries about banking with Unity.

Our UK based customer services team are on hand Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm to answer all your queries. You can speak directly to a person without having to go through ‘push button’ options and we are proud that 90% of queries are resolved by the person who answers the call.

Changing signatories is straightforward

We recognise that you will have a number of councillors as signatories on your bank account and that these may need to be changed regularly.

To speed up this process, we conduct electronic searches to verify the identity of signatories and other parties involved with the account.

Only in the event that a signatory or key account party does not pass this search would we then ask for further proof of identity.

Depositing your money is local and convenient

Unity is a branchless bank but we provide convenient solutions to ensure you can access your funds quickly and locally.

- If you need to pay in cash, we can arrange for you to do so at your local Post Office or at the counter of a local NatWest bank. Additional costs may be involved for the use of this service.
- Cheques can be paid in though the post using Freepost envelopes addressed directly to our clearing centre. We will supply you with a stock of these.

Making payments is simple and secure

We offer a number of convenient options to manage the funds going out of your account.

- Unity e-Payments is a Bacs service for making and receiving bulk payments such as salaries and recurring supplier payments. It is time-saving, cost-effective and easy to manage.

For more detail on e-Payments visit www.unity.co.uk/epayments

- We offer a prepaid card and Unity Corporate MultiPay card so that you have convenient ways to manage the spending of your Council. To find the most suitable option for your Council, speak to your Relationship Manger.
- Cheque books are available with all current accounts.

The bank for social impact

We share your social and community values

Unity was set up more than 30 years ago as a different type of bank - a bank which was committed to the creation of the common good, and a bank which was not driven by a pure profit motive.

Unity puts financial sustainability and positive social impact first. Here are some of the ways we continue to live by these principles:

- **First Living Wage accredited bank** and **Living Wage Champion** in the West Midlands
- **Pioneer of the Fair Tax Mark**
- Staff offered **five paid volunteering days a year**
- Staff own shares in the Bank through our **Employee Share Ownership Plan**
- Our apprentices **earn 64% above the national apprentice wage**
- Customer deposits are used to fund lending only **where there are clear social impacts**
 - Since 2013, we have created and protected over 5,500 jobs and housed over 1000 people

Financial sustainability

Unity is financially sustainable. We have never traded in subprime investments or the complex financial instruments that have resulted in difficulties for many banks. Unity funds its banking business entirely from shareholder capital and customers' deposits and, importantly, all our loans are covered almost four times by customer deposits.

Unity does not borrow money from other banks; therefore we do not hold a credit rating as this is only required to facilitate inter-bank borrowing. Our investments are made in UK Government backed Bonds and other UK financial institutions. We have a strict policy of not investing outside the UK.

Unity has a full banking licence, is regulated by both the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and is a member of the British Bankers Association. Our business is conducted according to regulatory codes and subject to due supervision.

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We joined Unity in December 2013 after we'd had some issues with our high street bank.

We'd heard that Unity was set up to work closely with Councils and thought they'd look after us better.

Our Councillors voted to switch and we are very happy with the decision. The customer service is great and really helpful and we'd definitely recommend them to other councils.”

Sharon Clayton
Town Clerk
Much Wenlock Town Council



Much Wenlock Town Council

Internet Banking is designed to meet your needs

Our Internet Banking service has been designed to be governance friendly. It is free to set up and use. Through Internet Banking you can manage your cash flow, amend and stop standing orders and Direct Debits, make payments and stop cheques. Each of the following features can be tailored to meet the needs of your Council.

Access level – Our Internet Banking service was developed with feedback from clerks to recognise the segregation of duties between Councillors and clerks. You can tailor the access rights of each Internet Banking user with varying combinations of view, submit and authorise access available.

Authority level – Single, dual and triple authority level available. This can be used to replicate a cheque payment signed by two or more Councillors and is a secure way of making payments.

Payment limits – Make online payments with added approval including specifying the number of users required to make a payment according to the value of the transaction being submitted, and naming the users that need to be involved in payments according to the value of the transaction.

Internet Banking Administrator –

Your Council can appoint an Internet Banking user to become an 'administrator' who can keep control of your online account activity. They will be able to set a maximum daily payment limit and an individual transaction limit on all external payments made via our Internet Banking service. These limits can be set per user or organisation.

Explore the features and see how it works using our Guide to Internet Banking. Visit www.unity.co.uk/ibdemo

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