

Financial New Year Resolutions

Christmas is the time of indulgence. But, after toasting the New Year, reality hits and it's time to sit down and think hard about your financial situation. What can you change and how? Making some **Financial New Year Resolutions** and setting yourself goals can help you on your way to a better financial future, especially during the cost of living crisis.

Start by making a list of all your transactions in one month to see exactly what you are paying out. Allocate the spending to essential and non-essential items. This exercise can highlight where savings can be made and help to make budgeting become second nature.

If you have a credit card chances are that it's taken a hit over the festive period. To tackle credit card debts, think about transferring the balance to a 0% interest balance transfer card. Then work out how much you need to pay each month to clear the balance before the interest-free period ends.

Once the credit cards have been taken care of, hopefully you can start saving a little to build an emergency fund to help with unexpected expenses. An automatic transfer to an easy access savings account on payday will help to build it up rather than waiting to see what is left over at the end of the month. Even a relatively small amount such as £50 per month will build to £600 per year equating to £3,000 in five years.

Another way to save money is to shop around for your utilities, insurance, mobile phone, broadband and entertainment packages. It may take a little time and effort but looking around the market for cheaper deals could save you money. If you start now, you will be ready to make the move when it is time to renew your policies or tariffs.



These tips will hopefully help you to keep on top of your finances. To start the ball rolling ask yourself the question – do you know how much is in your bank account right now? Now is the perfect time to start taking charge of your money.

We hope these tips are helpful and all at Fairhurst wish the readers a Happy & Prosperous 2024!

Published in the Wigan Observer 2nd January 2024