

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

In the midst of the current banking liquidity turmoil, brought to a crescendo by the Northern Rock problem, Police Credit Union stands firm on established principles.

Committed to the principles of the not-for-profit mutual credit union movement, Police CU provides the police family with safe, secure savings facilities and opportunities to borrow at sensible rates, as well as promoting a better understanding of personal financial management.

Unlike competitive High Street banks, Police CU does not enter into complex or untraditional funding arrangements or advertise headline rates for saving and borrowing that may not be sustainable. Instead, it manages savers' funds for their mutual benefit.

This tried and tested, measured approach ensures the long-term security of the union and savers' investments.

As the Police CU is owned by its members and not by shareholders, the growth of the credit union is entirely for the benefit of its members. The convenience of local staff in regional branches and payroll deduction enables Police CU to offer the police family straightforward financial services, founded on a commitment to mutuality.

CREDIT RELOADED

Reloader, a brand new credit account from Police Credit Union has arrived, offering a pre-authorised loan facility for members.

See back page for more details...

COMMON BOND

Police Credit Union's 'common bond', which determines the markets it can serve, has been reworded to include "law enforcement agencies sponsored by/responsible to the Home Office".

Under credit union legislation, credit unions are restricted by the parameters set out in each 'common bond'. The reworded Rule (7) has been approved by the FSA and ABCUL, the main trading association. It has now been included in the Police CU Rule Book, which can be viewed or downloaded on the website www.policecu.co.uk.

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MERSEYSIDE MOVE TO MONTHLY PAYDAY

Merseyside Police Force has announced changes to staff payroll, moving from four-weekly to calendar monthly pay periods.

Police Credit Union has worked with the Force to make the transition for staff who already use the payroll deduction scheme as smooth as possible. Savings and loan repayments to Police CU will now be made 12 times a year rather than 13 times.

All members in Merseyside have been issued with a 'Notification to change payroll

deductions form', which needs to be completed and returned to ensure that total annual savings at least remain the same or that loan repayments are adjusted to retain the existing repayment period.

If members wish to make no changes, the total amount saved annually will be reduced or if they have a loan, the repayment period will be extended. The branch staff at the Liverpool office, Carol and Sandra, are ready to assist with any queries. Simply call 0845 241 7504 or ext. 77550/77551 for more information.

NO TAX DEDUCTED WHEN WE PAY YOUR DIVIDEND

Members are reminded that dividends are credited to savings accounts without tax deducted and the liability to declare for tax to HMRC (Inland Revenue) remains with each

individual member who should, however, be aware that Police Credit Union is obliged to provide certain details to HMRC on an annual basis.

RATING THE HIGH STREET

A turbulent lending market and rising interest rates means that credit is becoming more expensive, but according to the latest figures, Police CU can now save more than £1,000 on high street prices.

With a 7.9% typical APR on all Police CU's Resourcer loans, it may appear that, for instance, Lloyds TSB's advertised rate of 7.9% offers the same value. But that rate only applies to much larger loans. So, for the average loan of £4,000, the Lloyds TSB rate rises to 18.9% and it has an early redemption penalty.

"...It's amazing to think that the savings offered by Police CU may now total more than £1,000"

This means that a Lloyds TSB customer could pay £119.39 per month for 48 months, compared to a Police CU member, who will pay £97.46 per month. Over the course of the four-year loan, this adds up to a staggering £1,052.64. Not only can the Resourcer loan offer

massive savings compared to the High Street but Police Credit Union also provides life insurance at no extra cost* and there's no set up fee, early redemption fee or settlement fee.

Treasurer Dave Raine said: "It's amazing to think that the savings offered by Police CU may now total more than £1,000. Our members may be confused by attractive APR offers in the windows of the High Street banks but, often, they are only available on larger loans.

"Our 7.9% typical APR applies to every size and term of Resourcer loan that we do. When it comes to responsible lending, credit unions really are leading the way."

***Subject to terms and conditions.**

Loan comparisons are based on a typical personal loan of £4,000 arranged over 48 months, excluding optional payment protection insurance. Competitor information source: MoneyFacts as at September 2007. Loans are subject to status, conditions and credit checks to persons aged 18 or over. Written quotations for loans are available on request.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE GAINS MOMENTUM



Police Credit Union is on the hunt for more members from forces offering payroll deduction facilities across the UK, as well as signing deals with new forces.

Already this year, the number of forces working with Police Credit Union has grown from eleven to fifteen, with more preparing to come on board in the near future.

Currently the forces' "best kept secret", Police Credit Union hopes to spread the word and reach new members within new and existing partner forces, so that even more of the police family can benefit. From adverts in Federation magazines to new quick and easy application forms, a series of re-launches looks set to prompt many new members to sign up.

more money in the pot, which means better dividends for all. By increasing the number of members, we can be even more efficient with our saving and lending, without necessarily increasing the number of staff or resources we need to deliver the full range of services.

"This in the longer term means that Police CU should be delivering even better dividends for its saving members as well as being able to maintain its sensible and competitive lending rates."

Bristol Branch Manager Kate Taverner said: "More members mean



ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Police Credit Union Limited will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9 January 2008 at Redwood Hotel &

Country Club, Failand, Bristol. All members are welcome.

Please note that full details of election

vacancies for Board Directors and Supervisors will appear on the website (www.policecu.co.uk) and branches from 1 November 2007 and a list of nominations from 10 December 2007.

FAST FORWARDING FINANCE

270,000 police officers and police staff are due to receive a tailor made CD-Rom created to help everyone improve their own financial situation.

Developed by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the industry watchdog, and a leading financial services provider, the CD-Rom has been designed specifically for employees of police forces.

In this day and age, the information needed to make informed decisions about our financial futures can be daunting. The CD-Rom will help individuals take control of their income and

expenditure, plan ahead, manage borrowing, as well as save and invest wisely. Very importantly it also includes two special sections designed for police officers and police staff with details of the benefit and reward package. It even gives thoughts and tips on how best to maximise all that is available.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, introduces the CD-Rom by urging everyone to work through the contents and share them with family and friends.

The CD-Rom also refers to the FSA's consumer website*, which can be reached direct from the PCU homepage, as well as on-line tools. In just a few minutes, officers and staff will be able to go through the budget calculator, the financial

health check or the debt test, to discover ideas on how to make the most of their money.

The FSA's impartial comparative tables of products such as savings accounts, mortgages and investment bonds enable everyone to compare similar financial products from different companies. Simply by answering a few questions, officers and staff will receive a personally tailored table of products.

There will be even more support on finances over the next two years as the FSA plans to roll out 'Make the Most of your Money' seminars to the Police in every force. Some Forces are already involved with the project, so watch this space for details of the seminars coming up.



* www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

FROM THE DESK OF... IAN CURLEY

Police CU Branch Manager Ian Curley works at the Welwyn Garden City Police Station on The Campus, with colleague Nick Williams.



Background

I served in the Hertfordshire Constabulary for 35 years and retired as an Inspector in 2004, having served mainly in uniform on Section, Tactical Group, Traffic and Force Operations Room. For my final three years I was a full time Federation Officer as Treasurer and Secretary.

My Role

Since joining Police CU in 2006 as a Director, I have now joined the staff, continuing the work begun by the late Tony Rumph, developing membership in Hertfordshire and persuading new forces to join the Police Credit Union family.

KEEPING BAD DEBTS LOW

The recent volatility in the stock market is being blamed on the volume of unsecured bad debt worldwide, which is living proof that poor credit is dire news for everyone. That's why, at the Police Credit Union, Deputy Branch Manager Richard Abbots is committed to keeping the level of bad debt low.

"A low level of bad debt ensures that our members with savings are protected and the dividend level can be maintained. It also helps our members with credit to feel confident that they will be supported throughout the duration of the loan.

"In order to keep up our great track record in this area, it is essential for our team to run credit checks on all members when they apply for one of our loan or credit products. These credit checks ensure that we

are lending money responsibly, protecting the interests of all our members. We'll even offer debt counselling wherever we can, in a friendly, constructive way to members who need or ask for it.

"As responsible lenders, we have to make sure that our members can afford to make repayments and are choosing the best loan for their needs. It's also important to make sure that our savers' investments are safe, and we deliver a great dividend each year."

What do you like about working at Police CU?

Although I started in sad circumstances, everyone in Police Credit Union welcomed and helped me. I enjoy still working with the police family and it's great to see Police Officers and Staff achieving their dreams, either by saving the money with us or by taking out a loan.

I get a real feeling of achievement when I'm able to support our members with financial difficulties and help them plan a way of getting out of those problems.

Who do you work with?

Nick joined us working part-time in February, following a long career in the insurance

provision industry. He was dropped in at the deep end, starting just as Kent and Essex joined us. He has risen to the challenge of administering the joining and loan forms and has still found time to further develop the office administration at Welwyn Garden City.

SPORTING SEASON FINALE

Police Credit Union has been lifting trophies with sporting heroes around the country, as the summer season finishes with a flourish.

Supported by the Police Credit Union, a Golf Day at Weald of Kent Golf Club near Maidstone was a big hit, raising £4,600 for the Police Memorial Day Fund.

The British Police Cricket Team has also enjoyed another successful

season, winning four out of their five games in their annual London tour. The stars of batting side were Nottinghamshire's David Fraser-Darling and the Met's James Pyemont, who both notched up impressive centuries.

Police CU's support for the British Police Cricket Team has enabled many prospective players to impress the selectors at closely fought matches, including one against a strong Worcestershire

County Second team at Bromsgrove. Dyfed Powys' Gary Evans made an unbeaten 109 and was awarded Police CU's 'Man of the Match'.

Inspector Kevin Powell, on the British Police Cricket Team management committee, said: "I'd like to thank Police Credit Union for its support, which has enabled games like this to take place, allowing new talent to come forward."



AN ALTERNATIVE TO OVERDRAFTS FROM PCU

One application covers all advances in a three year period!



To add to our existing easy access savings accounts and unsecured fixed rate loans, we've introduced **The Reloader**.

- ✓ A flexible 3 year loan facility, allowing you to take advances from a pre-agreed limit when you need them
- ✓ Ideal for smaller purchases and unexpected expenses
- ✓ The interest rate charged is likely to be lower than a bank overdraft
- ✓ Loan limits between £500 and £5000.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Contact your local branch office (details on website below) or

Call: 0845 241 7501

Email: enquiries@policecu.co.uk

Or visit: www.policecu.co.uk

Alternatively, simply **TEXT** the words '**PCU RELOADER**' followed by your name to **85500**. We will then give you a call on your mobile to talk you through it.

The text cost is 35p plus standard network charge (a little more than the price of a 1st class stamp).

Loans subject to status, conditions and credit checks to persons aged 18 or over. Written quotations for loans available on request. The Police Credit Union is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
Head office address: 2111 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3EA

Police Credit Union
Because there's strength in unity



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