



FINANCIAL TIPS FOR THE PANDEMIC

We are aware that many people are concerned about not only their health for also their financial wellbeing at this time. There is a growing concern that many people will find themselves redundant and the recruitment sector are reporting a surplus of applicants for jobs. As with everything else in life it pays to be prepared. Here is a check list of ‘things to think about’ and if you want a short face to face meeting to resolved your personal financial issues let us know.

Have you considered the following?

Things to think about	Comment	Give it a tick
<p>Have you got an emergency fund?</p>	<p>Every one should have an emergency fund, what I mean is an easily accessible account with some back up money. You need to check how much is in it and if you are still working, then I recommend topping it up. You have most probably saved some money by not having a holiday or going out to eat so much, so stack that money away for the rainy day, if it does not happen that is good, if it does happen you are prepared</p>	
<p>Are you using, or going to use your emergency fund?</p>	<p>The crazy thing is that most of us have an emergency fund of cash, but when the emergency happens, we are loath to use it – remember that is why you set it aside, for an emergency, this is it</p>	
<p>Remember the Government are trying to get us to spend money to get the economy moving, does that help you?</p>	<p>Well, yes, it may help you because it may mean that your job will be secure. However, may I suggest not going overboard with your new freedom to spend. My recommendation is spend £10.00 and save £10.00 just in case things do not work out – in which case you have more of a financial ‘cushion’</p>	
<p>Review your budget</p>	<p>Even if you do not think there is a chance you might lose your job, nevertheless, review your budget, you may have time to do that at the moment, cut out unnecessary expenditure (I am sure you will find that there are some things you really can live without!)- if you are then faced with unemployment you will have already done this exercise and your ability to survive from month to month on a reduced income will have already been faced</p>	
<p>Do not sacrifice your long term savings</p>	<p>At times like this, sometimes people are inclined to cash in their long term savings because they think the stock market is volatile and they need the cash. Please try and keep the money invested, normally you will be saving for your later life, that issue will still be there when (hopefully) the pandemic has gone. Investment wise, returns should improve over time. If you are desperate for cash simply remove it slowly as you need it rather than all at one time</p>	

<p>Do not stop paying your pension contributions unless you have lost your job</p>	<p>While you remain employed, the employer will continue to make pension scheme contributions on your behalf. Please do not stop yours, the amount you save now by stopping will be small, the amount you could lose long term may be large</p>	
<p>Ask for help but keep your eyes open to the offers – there may be a sting!</p>	<p>If you have a mortgage or credit card debt then speak to your lenders to see if you can set up a payment holiday. The sting in the tale is that you will still have to repay the debt – so at some point you will be facing paying off a larger balance. If you have credit cards check the APR rate and see if you can get credit cheaper elsewhere</p>	
<p>Ask for help from other sources close to home</p>	<p>To ask the parents for financial help or not, this is the dilemma? We all have a fairly good idea of our parents overall financial position and no one would be so thoughtless as to ask parents for help when it would put their financial situation at risk. However, some older people have not been spending so much during the pandemic and may be willing to help out. My advice is to ask for a regular amount each month, rather than a lump sum because most retired people need to keep their capital to provide income in the long run but may have some spare income, particularly at the present time</p>	
<p>Think about your lifestyle in general</p>	<p>Ask yourself, is now the time to review whether you would not prefer to work from home – think of the money you would save commuting or may be it would be advantageous to have a less well-paid job nearer to home. Should you consider moving to live in a different part of the country, raise some money from your house sale which allows you to earn less, there are endless possibilities and the pandemic has given us time to think about this – so have a good think you never know what positive outcomes a change of lifestyle may bring.</p>	

Do let us know should you have any queries:

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