

The Bristol Pound is a local currency which supports and enhances Bristol's thriving independent sector. **Bristol Pounds can only be spent in local, independent businesses** and not in chain stores and multinationals. This is a means of supporting local independent businesses in Bristol and beyond (including the former county of Avon) and a way of linking local businesses together to create a strong and resilient local economy.

For more information on why people use the Bristol Pound, see [here](#).

HOW DO I JOIN?

To open a Bristol Pound account with Bristol Credit Union please complete [this short form](#) and the application forms will be sent to you.

If you would like further information, please contact the Team on **01179298642** or businessaccounts@bristolpound.org

WHY SHOULD MY BUSINESS JOIN?

- **It's free to join**
- **Clear expression of values** to customers: displaying Bristol Pound POS shows you are an independent Bristol business and key part of the local economy.
- **More customers** – signing up gives you access to the Bristol Pound user customer base – a growing group of people and businesses who want to spend their money to improve local economy and community.
- **Free marketing** – your business gets instantly listed in our online directory, and will be included in our annual paper directory. You will be part of a well-known, trusted brand with strong social media channels and consistent media coverage. You can communicate special offers for free through our website.
- **Support the local economy** – recirculate wealth for the benefit of Bristol by linking up with hundreds of other businesses using the Bristol Pound, find quality local suppliers and producers in and around Bristol. Have a look at our directory to see who else is on board: bristolpound.org/directory
- **Fast, low cost and secure digital payments** – customers and businesses use their online accounts and the **Pay by Text system** to send instant, secure payments – no third parties process the payments and you don't need a card machine.

Find out more by looking at [our FAQs](#)

BRISTOL POUND ONLINE ACCOUNTS:

As a Bristol Pound Member your business will have an online account with which you can accept online and Pay by Text payments from any other member.

Once you have an account you can:

1. Manage your business profile with image, descriptions and keywords on the [Bristol Pound online directory](#).
2. Promote your involvement in the Bristol Pound with our Trader Pack, including window stickers, point-of-sale displays, User Guide and Printed Bristol Pound Security Guide
3. Manage your account online, print X & Z reports, search transactions by name and/or dates, and make fast, easy and secure payments online.
4. Re-spend the Bristol Pounds on business rates, wages and suppliers, keeping Bristol Pounds circulating, generate more wealth for Bristol's local economy and independent sector.

Do you trade online? For more information about how use Bristol Pounds for ecommerce, go to: [bristolpound/ecommerce](https://bristolpound.com/ecommerce).

PAPER BRISTOL POUNDS:

Anyone can get paper Bristol Pounds by dropping into one of the [Bristol Pound Cash Points](#) around town, and exchanging sterling for paper Bristol Pounds at a rate of 1-1. They are very attractive to tourists who use them to find independent Bristol businesses.

Paper Bristol Pounds work the same way as sterling - businesses can simply accept them in whole or in part payment alongside sterling. Giving Bristol Pounds out in change alongside sterling encourages wider circulation and means you are more likely to keep your customers coming back and spending.

Once businesses open a Bristol Pound account at Bristol Credit Union, they can deposit paper Bristol Pounds into their account at Cash Points (with Pay by Text), and make and receive electronic payments.

For more details [download our Printed Bristol Pound Security Guide](#).

WITH BRISTOL POUNDS YOU RECEIVE YOU CAN:

- Pay suppliers in Bristol Pounds (online, printed currency or mobile phone payments), including primary producers within 50 miles of Bristol.
- Find new local suppliers through the [Bristol Pound Online Directory](#).
- [Pay business rates to Bristol City Council](#).
- Pay employees a portion of their [wages in Bristol Pounds](#).
- Give paper Bristol Pounds in change alongside sterling (anyone can accept these voluntarily).
- Exchange Bristol Pounds back into sterling at no cost, if you can't spend them anywhere else.

COSTS TO BUSINESSES:

- Purchase of dedicated mobile phone: est. £15-20 retail price.
- To receive a payment via online transfer: 1% charge, capped at 95p
- To receive a payment via Pay by Text: 2% charge, or minimum charge 10p.
- Any business wishing to leave the Bristol Pound may do so at any time. Any remaining funds in your Bristol Pound account can be exchanged for sterling

N.B. daily spending limit for Pay by Text is £B300. Individual to business online payment limit is £B500 per day. Business to business online payments limit is £B1,000 per day.

For more information, contact our Team on 01179298642 or email us at businessaccounts@bristolpound.org

WHO RUNS THE BRISTOL POUND?

The Bristol Pound is a not-for-profit partnership between Bristol Pound Community Interest Company (CIC) and Bristol Credit Union.

Bristol Pound CIC is a company established with specific social goals and with assets of the company 'locked in' to community control. It is governed in line with the model of a stakeholder cooperative giving Bristol Pound account holders a say in the development of the company and representation on the board.