



THE BUZZ



Newsletter December 2020

Dear Members,

First of all I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas! It is going to be a difficult time for all of us, but I hope you all stay safe and well and get to see at least some of your families.

I think this pandemic has reminded us what is really important, which is not about buying loads of stuff that we don't really need, but about spending time with our loved ones.

Those of us who are lucky enough to get out and about in our local park with the children will know they will enjoy that much more than sitting in front of a telly or another screen all day.

I am very aware that some of you may be struggling due to reduced hours at work or through being furloughed or made redundant, and I just want to reassure you that we are here for you through this difficult time.

"Please talk to us if you are having difficulties as we will do our very best to help you sort things out. We are assessing how to open up branches on a regular basis, and will keep you informed on the website and by email, and are doing everything we can to ensure all our members can access services when they need them.

The staff are all still working extremely hard and processing your loan applications and share withdrawals in time for Christmas, but please bear with us as the telephone lines are extremely busy.

It is much quicker to email us on info@manchestercreditunion.co.uk. You can also message us through the members' area or MCU App.

Best wishes,

Christine Moore, CEO of Manchester Credit Union





MCU UNITES WITH FELLOW CREDIT UNIONS TO UNVEIL £15M IN COVID RECOVERY PLAN

SOUNDPOUND Greater Manchester Community Credit Unions

Manchester Credit Union has joined forces with seven other credit unions across Greater Manchester to launch a Covid-19 recovery plan that will offer hope and a total of £15m in financial support to millions of people across the region.

Manchester Credit Union, which currently has 30,000 members across the city, as well as Bury, Rochdale, Tameside, Trafford and the High Peak, has made £6million available to lend to local people in need of affordable credit, who may otherwise turn to high cost lenders.

The consortium, known as Sound Pound, wants to show communities across Greater Manchester there is light at the end of the tunnel and their local community credit union is there to support them at this time of uncertainty and financial hardship with an affordable loan package.

Christine Moore, Chief Executive of Manchester Credit Union, said: "We have come together to

launch this joint recovery plan with a clear objective - to rebuild our communities, support our people and lend responsibly.

"We want to encourage anyone who is struggling financially due to the impact of Covid to speak to us about their borrowing needs. Christmas can often be a particularly difficult time for people and this year, with the impact of the pandemic, we want to help people take control of their money matters without turning to unscrupulous lenders who won't have their best interests at heart.

"By offering people affordable credit, it will benefit the whole city, too - by increasing spending and keeping our local economy moving forward. It's a cycle and, if we work together, we can keep going."

The Sound Pound consortium is made up of Manchester Credit Union, South Manchester Credit Union, Stockport Credit Union, Cash Box Credit Union (Tameside), Unify Credit Union (Wigan), Hoot Credit Union (Bolton), Salford Credit Union and Oldham Credit Union.

All eight have signed up to the initiative in order to provide support to their local communities.

Christine continued: "Credit Unions offer support to local people whatever their needs are. Whether they are a single parent struggling to make ends meet, are looking for a deposit for their first home or need some help with managing their finances and putting some money away.

"Credit unions are also there to support local businesses and we offer a range of support

services to help them with the increasing pressures they are currently experiencing.

"Our Sound Pound recovery plan has been created to rebuild communities, support people and lend responsibly and it will play a crucial role in driving our local economy forward, helping all of us to build back better from the impacts being felt by our communities across Greater Manchester due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

**TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT:
WWW.SOUNDPOUND.CO.UK**

GOOD NEWS! YOU CAN NOW MAKE WITHDRAWALS 24/7

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We are very excited to announce our latest development to improve services to you, our members – 24/7 faster payments for share withdrawals. You can now withdraw your eligible savings any time of the day or night! Once you are registered on the members' area or have the MCU App (both extremely easy to use), you can request a withdrawal and the funds will be in your account within minutes – no need to wait for the usual transfer times. The process is very secure with two factor authentication, so don't delay, register today.



HOW WE'VE HELPED OUR WORKER BEES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Opened **5,994** new savings accounts



Granted **36,644** loans totalling

£11.8 million 

Saved people more than



Members' savings have increased by **£2.7 million**

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

We will be closing all branches and telephone lines at 2pm on Christmas Eve. Branches will be re-opening on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Staff will be working from home in between Christmas and New Year, so members can still access services during those times.

It's still not too late to apply for a loan in time for Christmas - you can apply on the MCU website: www.manchestercreditunion.co.uk, through the members' area or with the MCU App.



DID YOU KNOW

**1 IN 5 FIND THEIR
LOAN SHARK ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**

**CALL OUR 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL
HELPLINE 0300 555 2222**



Scan the QR code to
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Loan Sharks App.

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