



BANK OF ENGLAND

# Polymer banknotes

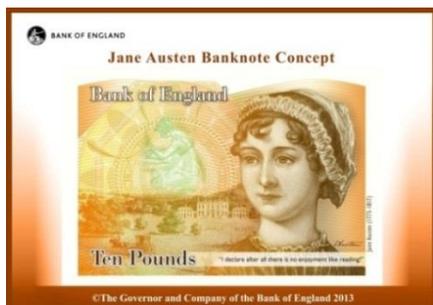
The next £5, £10 and £20 banknotes will be printed on polymer, a thin and flexible plastic material. Polymer notes are cleaner, safer and stronger than paper notes. The new notes will be smaller than the current notes.



## The new £5 note

The new polymer £5 note was issued on 13 September 2016. The note features Sir Winston Churchill and is 125mm x 65mm. *The current paper £5 note features Elizabeth Fry and is 135mm x 70mm. The paper £5 will be withdrawn from circulation on 5 May 2017.*

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## The new £10 note

The new polymer £10 note will be issued in summer 2017. It will feature Jane Austen and will be 132mm x 69mm. *The current paper £10 note features Charles Darwin and is 142mm x 75mm.*



## The new £20 note

The new polymer £20 note will be issued by 2020. It will feature J.M.W. Turner and will be 139mm x 73mm. *The current paper £20 note features Adam Smith and is 149mm x 80mm.*

More information about polymer banknotes can be found on our website: [www.thenewfiver.co.uk](http://www.thenewfiver.co.uk)

If you have any questions, please email: [enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk)



# Getting your business ready

As with any change in banknote design, all businesses that handle cash need to plan and prepare for the introduction of the new notes. Over 30 countries currently use polymer banknotes including Australia, Canada and Mexico.

## Checklist

- ✓ Ensure you know which cash handling machines are being operated by your business. These machines include self-service check-outs, desktop counters, ATMs, ticket machines, and any other machine that weighs, counts, sorts, accepts, dispenses or recycles banknotes.
- ✓ Contact the manufacturer or supplier of your machines to discuss what adaptations will be required for withdrawal of the paper £5 and issuance of the new £10 note, and when they will be available. For most machines, a software update will be needed.
- ✓ Aim to implement adaptations to your machines before any new note is issued.
- ✓ After 5 May 2017, you are no longer obliged to accept paper £5 notes. Some retailers, banks and building societies may continue to accept paper £5 notes for a short period of time after withdrawal; however this is at the discretion of the individual organisation. You should not continue to dispense paper £5 notes after the 5 May 2017.
- ✓ Train your staff. A range of materials to support staff training on issue and withdrawal are available at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/educational.aspx>.
- ✓ Keep up to date with the latest information about polymer banknotes, and other banknote news, by registering at: [www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/subscribe](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/subscribe).

## Timeline

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2017	<p><i>New £1 coin issued by the Royal Mint in March</i></p> <p>Educational material for £5 withdrawal available from end Feb</p> <p>Public Consultation 30 March</p> <p><b>Withdrawal of paper £5 note from circulation on 5 May</b></p> <p>Businesses adapt machines for the polymer £10 note</p> <p>Educational material for polymer £10 available</p> <p><b>New polymer £10 note issued in the summer</b></p> <p><i>Demonetisation of round £1 coin in October</i></p> <p><i>New polymer £10 notes issued by the three Scottish issuing banks: Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale, RBS</i></p>
By 2020	Withdrawal of paper £10 note from circulation before <b>new polymer £20 note is issued</b>

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