

YOU SAID, WE DID

Your Views Matter – Downsizing Policy

You said

We did



“How wide is the area available to relocate to? Is there an opportunity to move e.g. to Gloucester or Forest of Dean?”



This scheme applies to all SDC tenants moving to smaller accommodation via the Homeseeker Plus housing register – which covers the whole of Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire areas.



“If a tenant has support or care needs, and they move to a different area through this scheme, what reassurance would they have that the same support would be available to them at the property they move to?”



The policy sets out the practical support that may be offered to those bidding for properties and moving home, including dedicated officer support to oversee the moving process. Where a tenant has ongoing need for care or support, they would be helped to ensure that was in place at their new home through signposting and onward referrals.



“Rent arrears should be cleared before the application is processed”



The policy sets out a clear eligibility criteria, including:

- Having no housing debt with the Council
- Have no council tax arrears
- Has kept to the terms of their tenancy agreement and is not subject to legal action for breach of tenancy



“I hope this policy applies to ALL that are under occupying”



The policy applies to all eligible tenants and sets out detailed eligibility criteria for those who may apply for the downsizing scheme and where the Council will not accept applications.



Following consultation with residents, we have removed the requirement to be in receipt of welfare benefits in order to be eligible for the scheme, meaning many more tenants will now be able to benefit from it



“Perhaps consider the phycology of the tenant? Are they being pressured, do they feel vulnerable or being pushed by others to move”



All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will look at individual tenant’s circumstances.



The policy also sets out the practical support that may be offered to those bidding for properties and moving home, including dedicated officer support to oversee the moving process



“I don’t think people should be paid to move. The money you’re offering also isn’t enough to persuade people to give up probably a lifetime family home. Your policy won’t make a big enough change which is what’s needed”



The downsizing incentive scheme is a limited budget which will be reviewed annually. Priority will be given to those tenants moving from accommodation that is more urgently required. The reason for offering a paid incentive is that this may help the Council make greater savings in other costs such as temporary accommodation, as well as providing fair compensation for those giving up a larger family home.

Thank You

Stroud District Council is committed to ensuring that, through the Downsizing Policy, we make the most effective use of our housing stock to meet the needs of those on the housing register. We will also support tenants to move to more appropriate and affordable housing that reduces any financial strain and improves their wellbeing.

Your feedback has helped shape how we will achieve this.

Other Ways to Get Involved!

There are lots of ways for you to get involved and have real influence on the types of services we provide and the role we play in your community.

Your views matter to us and there are several ways in which you can have your say or get involved. If you would like to get involved please contact the Resident Engagement Team resident.involvement@stroud.gov.uk or call 01453 766 321. You are also able to complete the [attached form](#). Thank you