



# Hampshire Home Choice



## ***Are you ready to Move?***

You may be considering a move for a variety of reasons. Moving can be stressful, complicated and expensive. Do spend some time looking at alternatives and check whether you could solve some or all of your present problems without moving. Talk things over with family and friends and also get some independent advice about your housing options.

You will need to think about how you will support yourself financially and budget for the costs of moving.

### **Work Out your Finances**

When thinking about your finances remember:

- You may have to pay up to one month's rent in advance. Further information about which landlords ask for rent in advance can be found on the Hampshire Home Choice website.
- You may need to give notice to your current landlord which means you may have to pay rent on two properties at the same time. You will need to check with your landlord how much notice you have to give.
- You will have to pay for Council Tax, gas, electric, water, TV Licence, household contents insurance, travelling costs and other expenditure such as food and clothes.
- You will also have to pay for the costs of moving.
- You will have to budget for your new home.
- [Click here](#) to check if you are entitled to any benefits by going onto the benefits calculator.

Think about, if you live closer to schools or work, the cost of parking and petrol may be cheaper.

### **Bidding for a Suitable Place to Live**

When bidding for properties, have you considered if the property is suitable for you and your household. You should think about the following:

- Are you ready to move
- Can you afford the rent
- Property size
- Flat or house
- Floor level of flat
- Location

- Employment
- Schools, shops and other amenities
- Transport
- Family and friends
- Can you afford white goods and carpets?
- Have you read all of the advert details and consider the property is suitable?
- Can you afford removal costs (If you're receiving income related benefits you could apply for a budgeting loan to help with moving costs) Most people ask friends or family for help when they have to move.

### **What happens when you are offered a Property?**

The landlord will let you know when you can view the property and when the property is available. This will give you the chance to make sure the property is suitable for you. You will then need to let the landlord know whether you want to accept the property or not.

### **What happens if you refuse a Property?**

If you refuse 2 reasonable offers within 6 months, your application will be suspended from the date of the second refusal and you will not be able to bid for further properties for 6 months.

Applicants, who have been accepted as homeless and are owed a full duty under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) by one of the Council's participating in Hampshire Home Choice, will only receive 1 reasonable offer in the area where the homelessness duty is owed.

### **Moving**

If you already live in your own property you will need to think about the following:

- Make sure you've given the right notice to your landlord to end your tenancy properly. You should contact your landlord to talk to them about this. Leave the property clean and tidy and remove all of your belongings as you may be charged for the removal of any items left in the property (including the garden, drive, garage, loft and sheds) and for cleaning the property if it is left in poor condition. Leave the property secure, with all the windows and doors shut and turn off all services at the mains before you leave. For safety reasons, you should arrange for a qualified electrician or gas fitter to disconnect the cooker.
- Return all keys, including garage and shed keys where applicable, to your landlord. If the keys are returned late you may be charged an extra week's rent. If keys are not returned you may be recharged for the cost of changing the locks.
- Complete a Housing Benefit form if applicable or if applicable make a claim for Housing Costs if you are in receipt of Universal Credit.

## **Who should you tell that you are Moving?**

- Your current landlord.
- Council Tax and Benefits Service.
- Water, Gas and Electricity companies – You also need to make a note of the meter readings.
- The company that supplies your telephone service.
- The TV Licensing – to set up/transfer your TV Licence.
- Department of Works and Pensions, Bank, DVLA - driving licence, GP and Dentist.
- You can also contact The Post Office - to redirect mail to your new address.

## **Do you need Additional Support?**

Speak to your landlord who may have their own Support Service or they may signpost you to other agencies.

If you are referred to a floating Support Service, the aim of this type of Service is to ensure you are able to maintain your accommodation. The type of support you could be offered includes, help managing your finances.

## **Council and Registered Housing Provider Tenants**

Do you have to move or can any issues you are experiencing be resolved?

Have you registered with Homeswap or Homeswapper which allows Council and Registered Housing Provider (also known as Housing Association) tenants to exchange homes with another tenant?

Have you checked with your landlord how much notice you would have to give if you are offered another property? Usually you have to give 4 weeks.

Do you have sufficient income or savings to pay the rent on your current property and new property as you usually have to move quite quickly once you have been offered a property.

## **Start Saving Now**

If you are planning to move, try to have some savings for emergencies. Living independently is expensive so start saving as soon as you can. If you move into somewhere you can't afford, you could run into financial problems. For example, you could be evicted if you don't pay your rent.

## **Advice**

If you require any housing advice you can contact your local Council where the Housing Service will provide advice and assistance to anyone eligible for housing assistance that needs help with their housing. Alternatively, you can contact the Citizens Advice Bureau who will provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities.