Living in a house that’s too big for you?

Guidance for tenants

Birmingham City Council

wise move
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Your handy guide

Are you living in a council property that’s too big for you? Would you like to move to a smaller property?

Over time, many people’s housing needs change. Perhaps your children have grown up and moved on, and you’ve found yourself in a home that is larger than you need. You may find it difficult to keep warm and afford heating and electricity bills. Whatever the reason for wanting a smaller property, we would like to hear from you.

We may be able to provide support and assistance to help you with your move. We may also be able to cover some of the costs involved in moving to a new home. If you are interested, please contact us and we can discuss your options with you.

If you say you want to move home and then change your mind, that’s fine. You can stay in your current home.

If you decide to go ahead you must ensure that the property is left empty and ready for us to relet to the new tenant.

Checking that you qualify

You qualify for our under-occupation scheme if you are a Birmingham City Council tenant living in a house or maisonette with three or more bedrooms.
Benefits to you

Some of the benefits of moving to a smaller home include:

- smaller fuel bills
- a home that’s easier to manage
- moving nearer to family and friends
- keeping your independence.

Depending on your circumstances, we can assist with:

- a support worker to assist with your move
- the practicalities of organising your move

- gas and electricity re-connections
- fitting minor adaptations, if you need them, such as grab rails and bath rails
- housing advice and support.

We can also help with financial assistance for some re-decorating and carpeting your home, and your removal costs.
Your questions

Q. Can I move anywhere in the city?
A. Yes, although the supply of suitable property does vary across the city. All properties will be allocated through Birmingham Home Choice. We may even be able to help you move outside Birmingham.

Q. What type of property could I move to?
A. You could move to a house, bungalow, flat or sheltered scheme, depending on the availability at the time.

Q. If I do move, how long will I have to move and will I get any help?
A. The time taken to find your new home will vary. We can give you practical help for your move, including some re-decorating or carpeting.
Q. I have a gas cooker. If I move to an all-electric home can I get a new electric cooker?
A. Yes, we can offer some financial assistance for new appliances.

Q. Will my new home be adapted to suit my needs?
A. This will depend on your situation, but small adaptations can be included as part of the service.

To find out more
Please call us on the freephone telephone number 0121 303 6825 between 8.45am to 5.15pm, Monday to Thursday and 4.15pm on Friday.
If you would like this leaflet in large print, Braille or audio CD, please call 0121 303 1116.