**Look for a New Home**

There are lots of different services to help you stay in your current home. But if you feel your home isn’t suitable for your needs and you are looking for a new home you may find there are many different housing options available to you that you haven’t thought about. Like private renting, shared ownership options, council or housing association homes or even swapping your current home for something more suitable.

**Privately Renting**

Privately renting allows you the freedom to chose where you live, to chose the type of property you want to live in and to move more quickly should you need to. The Directory of Services on our home page list details of local letting agencies.

We know trying to find the rent deposit and rent in advance can be expensive so we may be able to offer financial assistance through our private rented deposit scheme. Please speak to your Housing Options Officer for further details.

If you are unable to afford the rent yourself, you may qualify for financial help through the Housing Benefit system. However, you will need to know the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates for the area you want to live in as this will be the maximum amount of housing benefit you can receive. The amount of LHA you can get usually depends on many bedrooms you are entitled to LHA rates are based on the postcode the property falls under. To find the area your postcode falls under and the maximum rent allowed contact the Rent Service website via [www.Iha-direct.voa.gov.uk](http://www.Iha-direct.voa.gov.uk)

You can also contact the Housing Options Officers for further advice and assistance in securing a private rented property.

**Shared Ownership or Intermediate Rent schemes**

Whether you are looking for help to buy or rent, ‘Homes in Hants’ are the help to buy or rent agency for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight. They have a range of affordable options and advice to help you search and apply for your new home through the Government ‘Help to Buy’ schemes.

If you are interested in shared ownership or intermediate rent schemes you will need to complete a full application and be assessed as eligible by Homes in Hants. You can contact them via their website [www.homesinhants.co.uk](http://www.homesinhants.co.uk)

**Council or Housing Association:**

To apply for council for housing association homes you should apply to join Hampshire Home Choice via our dedicated website: [www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk](http://www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk) once your application is assessed, you can use our website to **search** for available proprieties, **apply** for properties and **view** results of weekly lettings.

**Swap Your Home:**

If you are a council or housing association tenant you can register to swap your home anywhere in England and Wales. If you are a Winchester City Council tenant you can register on the website for free. To register go to [www.homeswapper.co.uk](http://www.homeswapper.co.uk) where you can create an advert for your property and look at other people’s adverts too.