

# CONSIDER DOWNSIZING?

Help for Winchester City Council tenants wishing to downsize. If you are considering moving to a smaller home then we can help you.



## What is the Wise Move scheme about?

Wise Move is for Winchester City Council tenants who would like to move to a property with fewer bedrooms than their current home.

## How can Wise Move help me move home?

A payment of £2,500 is maybe available to any tenant of the Council who moves to a property with fewer bedrooms than their current home.

We want to make it as smooth and easy as possible for you to find a smaller home that you are happy to move to. We can help you to do this by making it financially possible and by also offering some practical support too.

The payment is available for you to take away to spend or if you ask us, we can use it to arrange things like:

- Removals, packing & unpacking
- New furniture, furnishings & carpets
- Decoration
- Reconnection of appliances
- Handyman help
- Redirection of post, change of address notifications, dealing with utilities companies and registering with local services

## Do I qualify for Wise Move?

Any Winchester City Council tenant who wants to move to another one of our properties or a Registered Provider / Housing Association property which has fewer bedrooms can apply. If you have rent arrears, the payment may be used to help pay off your debt. The scheme is also available to Council tenants who are mutually exchanging to a property with fewer bedrooms.

## What are the benefits of moving to a smaller home?

Your housing needs may have changed and you could now have 'spare' bedrooms which you no longer need. Some of the benefits of moving to a smaller home include:

- Increased eligibility Benefit for working age tenants (under the Government's Size Criteria rules for 'spare' bedrooms)
- Reduced bills e.g. council tax, utilities
- A home that's easier to manage
- Freeing up a larger home for a family that needs it

Whatever the reason for wanting a smaller property, we would like to help.

It can take several months for you to find the right property, so please get in touch soon so we can get started.

### **How do I apply for Wise Move?**

You can contact us on **01962 848 400** and we can explain the scheme to you, check that you qualify and see whether this is something you would like to take up.

You can also apply online at [www.winchester.gov.uk/downsize](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/downsize) by completing the online contact form. Or call into the Council office if you don't have access to the internet or a phone and want to talk to an advisor. An advisor will contact you as soon as possible after receiving your enquiry.



# CONTACT

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**By phone** on 01962 848 400

**By sending an e-mail to** [housing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:housing@winchester.gov.uk)

You can also apply online at [www.winchester.gov.uk/downsize](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/downsize) by completing the online contact form.

If you have any particular needs which affect how you are able to use or be involved in our services or how you would like to receive information for example:

translation	interpreters
braille	audio tape
large print	sign language

Contact the Customer Service Centre  
01962 840 222  
[customerservice@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@winchester.gov.uk)

September 2018

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