

# Housing in Cardiff

Cardiff Council aims to help people find a decent home in the city. Unfortunately at the moment there are more people looking for homes in Cardiff than there are properties available.

We are working with housing associations, private landlords and the Welsh Assembly Government to make sure that the best use is made of all available housing in the city.

When looking for housing it is important you consider all options available and may include:

- Renting from the Council
- Renting from a Housing Association
- Renting from a private landlord
- Schemes for people on moderate incomes to own a home
- Looking outside Cardiff to find suitable housing

The Council have an Allocation Policy that is designed to help those in the greatest need of housing. It gives more choice to people about where they live, and the kind of home they need now and in the future. It aims to keep people near their family, friends, relatives and communities. We have produced a leaflet that explains in

more detail the Council's Allocation Policy. Please contact Housing Enquiries for more details.

**To apply for Council Housing in Cardiff -** You will need to complete and return a housing application form, which is available from any of our Service Outlets. Completed application forms will be assessed according to need.

## **Residential Caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers in Cardiff**

There are two residential caravan sites in Cardiff for gypsies and travellers. If you wish to apply for a pitch contact your Housing Enquiries for an application form to be admitted to the waiting list.

**Low Cost Home Ownership** is a scheme that helps people who would not otherwise be able to afford to buy a home. You can apply for the scheme if you are a first time buyer and have lived and/or worked in Cardiff for at least 6 months. The scheme works on an equity share basis where you will usually need to find 70% of the cost of a property via a mortgage or savings. For further details please contact the Housing Strategy Team.

## Transfers

During your tenancy you may find that you wish to move to a different type of property, e.g. you may have more children and wish to be considered for an extra bedroom

or

Your children have grown up and left home and you wish to move to a smaller property or to a sheltered housing scheme

or

You are in an upper floor flat and have difficulty climbing stairs and wish to be considered for a more suitable property.

If you wish to transfer then you can complete an application form, which can be obtained from a District Office, a HUB or by ringing the Housing Enquiries line.

### For a Transfer to proceed

- your rent account must be clear
- your home must be in a reasonable decorative condition and all fixtures and fittings must be intact
- all improvements or alterations carried out have to have been with the Council's written agreement.

**N.B.** in very exceptional circumstances we can allow a transfer to go ahead following discussions with your Tenancy Officer.

**Applications are assessed** in accordance with the Council's Allocation Policy. There is a high demand for moves to some areas and to make sure we allocate transfers fairly each application will be dealt with individually. This is explained in more detail in the Allocation Policy.

## Exchange

Secure tenants of Cardiff Council can use the HomeSwapper website free of charge, allowing you to share your exchange details with almost 200,000 people. The scheme is approved by over 650 social landlords in the UK and covers around 80% of Wales. In the past year HomeSwapper has helped over 18,000 tenants move home. The scheme is easy to access over the internet, all you need to do is register online at [www.homeswapper.co.uk](http://www.homeswapper.co.uk) to use the service. If you are not able to access the internet at home, there are computers with internet access which you can use by joining your local library. Once you have registered, HomeSwapper will search for matches for you – 9/10 tenants get matched in less than 24 hours. They will also tell you by email or text about new matches.

HomeSwapper is an independent organisation and although we try to ensure that their website is appropriate Cardiff Council is not responsible for the content.

