

Important Changes to South Ayrshire Council's Housing Allocations Policy

Three new changes will be made to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy as a result of forthcoming welfare reforms that will affect Housing Benefit.

1. Removing the choice of an additional bedroom to prevent under-occupation

From April 2013, Housing Benefit will be reduced for Council and housing association tenants who are classed as under-occupying their homes, as defined by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). As a result, the choice of an additional bedroom will be removed for all applicants and all applications will be reassessed on this basis. Applicants who still want an extra bedroom after this must contact us to request this, and confirm they understand the impact on levels of Housing Benefit and payment of rent.

All applicants will be sent an individual letter advising that the changes have been made to their application and outlining the procedure for requesting an additional bedroom.

2. New criteria for assessing size of property needed by a household

All applications will be reassessed using the guidelines set by the DWP for determining the size of property required.

This may affect the number of bedrooms an application is held for and the applicant's position on the housing list.

All applicants will be sent an individual letter advising when this change has taken place and to let them know how many bedrooms their application is held for, and their re-assessed position on the housing list.

3. Additional priority for tenants willing to downsize

Tenants who are living in 3 or 4 bedroom high-demand properties and who are willing to downsize by at least two bedrooms will be given priority for re-housing.

A letter will be sent to all tenants advising when this change has taken place.

Information on our web pages will be updated once these changes have been introduced

For further information, or to organise a housing options interview, please telephone 0300 123 0900.