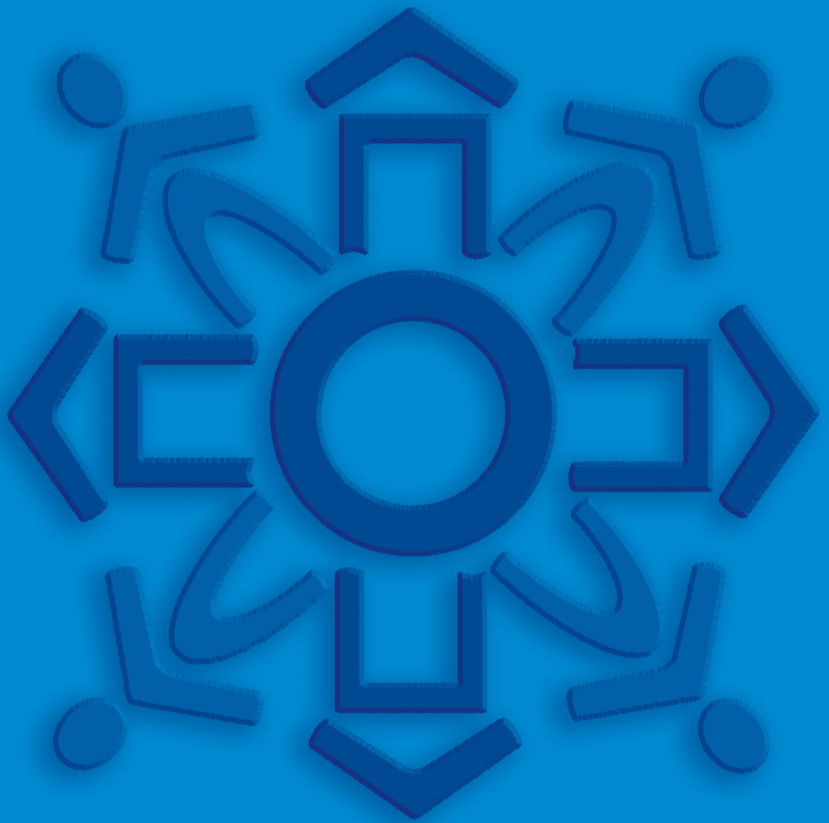




OXFORD
REGISTER FOR
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

Housing Options



Translations available

অনুবাদের ব্যবস্থা আছে
提供有翻譯本
तरजमे उपलब्ध हैं
उरणमे मिल सकते हन
ترجمہ دستیاب ہے

**If you need a translation, a larger
print copy, audiotape, or a copy of
this publication in some other form,
please contact T: 01865 252858**

Housing Options



Oxford is an area where there is a shortage of affordable homes. To be realistic you might find it worth looking at other areas outside the City where there is a greater availability of homes to rent. If you do need to live in Oxford, Oxford City Council can help you with looking at your options.

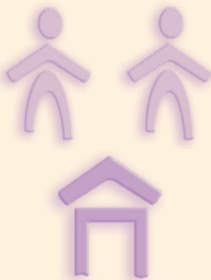
Buying a Property



Properties are often expensive in and surrounding Oxford. There are many estate agents and local newspapers who publish property supplements which can usually be obtained free from estate agents.

HomeBuy schemes (shared ownership and other low cost home ownership)

A number of Housing Associations have developed schemes for people who can afford to buy part of a property, usually with a mortgage. The Housing Association jointly owns the property and charges 'rent' on the part they own. This enables people who cannot afford to purchase the full cost of a home to take a step into Home Ownership.



HomeBuy is the agency in this area that provides information and advice about a number of different low cost home ownership schemes. If you are interested in these schemes you should register with HomeBuy. You can telephone them on 0845 601 7729 or visit their web site www.homebuy.co.uk. There are separate leaflets about HomeBuy available from the local offices.



You also need to register on the Oxford Register for Affordable Housing because the Council is normally responsible for putting names of housing applicants forward to the Association when shared ownership becomes available.

Renting in the Private Sector



There is competition for rented vacancies in the City. Adverts are placed in the local papers and there are also a number of property or letting agents in the City. Agents may charge a fee for their services and you normally have to pay a deposit before moving in. Not all vacancies are advertised widely. Most landlords let properties for 6 or 12 months at a time.

The Lord Mayors Deposit Guarantee Scheme



This scheme is for people on low income or benefits who are unable to raise a deposit to access accommodation in the private rented sector. The scheme provides a written guarantee, which can be used instead of a cash deposit for breakages and missing items. For more information see the Deposit Guarantee Scheme leaflet or call the scheme direct on T: 01865 252028.

Housing for Older people



If you are interested in housing for people aged over 55 you should pick up the application pack for housing for older people. This gives information about sheltered housing (housing designed for older people usually with communal facilities, a community alarm system and visiting support from staff) and other housing specifically designated for older people. Waiting lists for this type of property are generally shorter than other types of housing in the City.

Community Alarms



If you are older and live in general needs housing you might want to consider a community alarm which enables you to call a centre who can summon help in an emergency (for example if you become suddenly ill or fall and cannot get up). More details can be found in the leaflet *Community Alarms*.

Renting from Council or Housing Associations



The City and Housing Associations work together to provide affordable and secure accommodation.

The Council has recently introduced the Oxford Register for Affordable Housing. All properties owned by the Council or the partner Housing Associations are let through this list but there are only a limited number of vacancies each year. Currently there are seven times as many people on the list than properties that become available each year. Flats and housing for older people are easier to obtain than family housing. Applications are prioritised according to need and usually only one offer of accommodation will be made.

If you want to register for this housing you need to pick up an application pack.

If you are Homeless



The first thing is to get advice. A housing advisor in the Housing Options Team based at St Aldate's Chambers will be able to tell you whether your landlord can evict you and may be able to act on your behalf. You can also get advice on how to deal with debts and benefits you may be entitled to.

The Council provides housing advice and help to people who are homeless. This does not always mean accommodation will



be provided. The Housing Options team will carry out careful enquiries into the circumstances of people who ask for help.

If you need extra support where you live



There are a number of agencies that provide supported accommodation in the City. These can be found in the *Survival guide for Homeless families and Single people in Oxford* booklet.

List of local housing offices and contacts



- **Housing Needs Team**

Oxford City Council, St Aldate's Chambers, St Aldate's
Oxford OX1 1DS T: **01865 252858**
E: **allocations@oxford.gov.uk**

- **East Oxford Local Service Shop**

Oxford City Council, 174D Cowley Road (off Bullingdon
Road, Oxford OX4 1UE

- **Oxford Citizens Housing Association**

244 Barns Road, Oxford OX4 3RW
T: **01865 773000**

- **Catalyst Communities Housing Association**

The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys,
Oxford OX4 7BU
T: **01865 712244**

- **Dominion Housing Group**

Godstow Court, 5, West Way, Oxford OX2 0GE
T: **01865 260500**

Limited hour 'surgeries' are also held at the following offices.
Please phone **0800 227676** for information

Housing Options



- **Blackbird Leys Local Service Shop**
Oxford City Council, 3 Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 5JH
- **Barton Information Centre**
Oxford City Council, Underhill Circus, Oxford OX3 9LS
- **Rose Hill Office**
Oxford City Council, Ashhurst Way, Oxford OX4 4RF
- **Allocations Team**, St Aldates Chambers T: **01865 252858**
- **Environmental Health and Tenancy Relations Officers** T: **01865 252563/252398/252267**

Advice centres



The Housing Options service at St Aldates Chambers provides housing advice for all residents of Oxford. For independent housing advice please contact:

- **Age Concern Oxfordshire** (City and County)
St. Edmunds House, 39 West St Helens Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5BW T: **01235 849400**
W: www.ageconcernoxon.org.uk
- **Agnes Smith Advice Centre**
96 Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford OX4 6HS
T: **01865 770206** (Telephone first for an appointment)
- **Barton Information Centre** (Monday to Friday 10.00 to 13.00) Underhill Circus, Oxford OX3 9LS
T: **01865 744152** (there is a drop-in service but you can also make an appointment)
- **Citizens Advice Bureau** (CAB) 95 St Aldates, Oxford
T: **0870 2200608** E: oxfordcab@cabnet.org.uk

Housing Options



- **Rose Hill and Donnington Advice Centre**
The Oval, Rose Hill, Oxford OX4 4SE T: **01865 438634**
- **Turpin Miller and Higgins Housing Advice Service**, 1 Agnes Court, Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2EN T: **01865 770111**
E: office@turpinmiller.co.uk

Useful Housing Web sites



- www.oxford.gov.uk for Council Services and advice
- www.shelternet.otg.uk for advice
- www.oxford-estateagents.co.uk list of estate agents
- www.dailyinfo.co.uk local information
- www.availablehomes.org.uk rented and home ownership
- www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onelife/housing for advice

Other Advice and Support



- **Asian Womens Helpline**
PO Box 305, East Oxford, Oxford OX4 1SF
T: **01865 200861/ 0800 052 6077**
E: helpline@asianwomenshelpline.co.uk Confidential information and support
- **Community Legal Service**
T: **0845 345 4345** National helpline for advice on legal and financial problems
- **Disability Benefits Centre**
T: **020 8795 8400** for all initial claims and requests for home visits for benefits assessments
- **Gay and Lesbian Support Service** Terrance Higgins Trust (HALT) T: **01865 243389**



- **Mediation Oxfordshire** (check who Council use)
Regal Community Centre, Ridgefield Road,
Oxford OX4 3BY T. **01865 776789**
mediation to help resolve neighbourhood or other disputes
- **Oxfordshire County Council Social and Community Services**
134B Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JH
T: **01865 815454**
Help and advice for families and child protection
- **Oxfordshire Mental Health matters**
T: **01865 728981** Advice line if you are worried about your own or a partners or family members mental health
- **Oxfordshire Money Advice Project**
T: **01865 244411** Financial information and can refer to an appropriate local agency for advice
- **Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis centre**
T: **01865 726295** Telephone and face to face support for any woman who has experienced rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment or domestic violence
- **Oxford Women's Aid Helpline** T: **01865 778400**
- **Racism Action Line**
T: **01865 815121** Confidential advice and support to report racist incidents.
- **Racial Equality Council** T: **01865 791891**
Advice on racial issues
- **Relate Oxfordshire** T: **01865 242960**
Counselling for those with relationship difficulties including abuse and violence
- **Victim Support Oxfordshire** T: **01865 751511**
Emotional and practical support for victims of crime.

Notes

Notes

The Oxford Register for
Affordable Housing is a
partnership between
Oxford City Council and the
Housing Associations
listed below



OXFORD
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List of partner agencies

Oxford City Council

Bromford Housing Group

Catalyst Communities Housing Association

Dominion Housing Group

Home

Jephson Homes Housing Association

Oxford Citizens Housing Association

Soha Housing

Thames Valley Housing Association