



Housing Needs

Help with Furnishing Your Oxford City Council Home

This leaflet is part of a series of leaflets that sets out key information about Oxford City Council's Housing Needs service.

This leaflet explains how the Council can help you furnish your new home.

You can download a copy of this leaflet from
www.oxford.gov.uk

Translations available

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Housing Needs Service Leaflets Available

- Applying for Housing
- Assessing Applications
- Exceptional Circumstances Panel
- Help with Furnishing Your Oxford City Council Home
- Home Choice
- Housing Options
- Housing Registers Explained
- Incentive Scheme for Under-Occupying Oxford City Council Tenants
- Move-on Scheme for Single People
- Offer of Housing
- Review of Homelessness Decisions
- Review of Housing Allocations Decisions
- Survival Guide for Homeless Families and People in Oxford

Housing Needs Service

St Aldate's Chambers

St Aldate's

Oxford OX1 1DS

T: 01865 252858 / 59

F: 01865 252103

E: allocations@oxford.gov.uk

Help with Furnishing Your Oxford City Council Home



Renting Furniture



The Council operates a scheme that allows you **to rent essential furnishings as part of your tenancy**.

You must be either:

- A new tenant housed for the first time, or
- An existing tenant who is transferring from one Council home to another because you are fleeing harassment or you have been awarded an 'urgent' status.

Furnishings include items such as carpets, curtains, cooker, refrigerator, beds and bedding and other items that are needed to set up your new home.

The aim of the scheme is to provide furniture to new tenants setting up home for the first time and who otherwise may not be able to afford it.

The scheme seeks to ensure that our property becomes your 'home' and that the tenancy is more likely to succeed.

How it Works



If you are **eligible** to rent furnishings you can choose the things you need from our furnished tenancy brochure. You will need to sign up for the furnishings at the same time as you sign up for the tenancy for your home. The furnishings will then be delivered to your new home as soon as possible **after** your tenancy has started.

You will **pay rent** for the items you have chosen, for a period of five years. At the end of the five years the Furnished Tenancy Officer will visit you to see if you want to continue under the scheme.

You will be responsible for keeping the furnishings safely in your property and you will be expected to look after the items and keep them in good order (allowing for fair wear and tear). If you **wish to move** to another Council home you can, but you will need to consider a number of options available to you. Please discuss further with the Furnished Tenancy Officer.

Other Options



Before you agree to rent furnishings from the Council you should make sure that you have explored other options available to you. For example, you may be entitled to a grant from the Social Fund or help from a charity.

Remember that the furnishings will not belong to you but will remain the property of Oxford City Council at all times.

There are financial limits to the total value of furniture/goods you may choose depending on the size of the property. Carpets are not included in the financial limits. If you would like carpets to be supplied you must also inform the Estate Manager of this when you sign up for the scheme.

After Five Years



At the end of the five year period you will be given the **opportunity to choose** whether to:

- End the rental and have the items removed.
- Cease the rental but have the items left in your home. (Please note the items remain the property of the Council but will be removed (rather than repaired) if they break down or wear out).

- Continue with the scheme for a further year and continue to make a choice on an annual basis, as to whether to continue renting or not.

You will be visited on a regular basis to enable the inventory of furniture/goods to be checked. Remember the Council owns the furniture/goods and your tenancy may be affected if any items are missing or damaged.

For Information



If you wish to benefit from this scheme and would like more details please contact:

Housing Services: Furnished Tenancies

Oxford City Council
St Aldate's Chambers
St Aldate's
Oxford OX1 1DS
T: **01865 252868**