

SMART MOVE SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q How often do you advertise properties?

A Homesearch properties are advertised online weekly from Wednesday midnight and the cycle ends Sunday midnight.

Q Can I move from a 1 bed to a bedsit?

A No, the smallest move allowed is from a 2 bedroom property to a 1 bedroom property.

Q How can I bid for Smart Move properties?

A Available council and housing association properties are advertised online on our Southwark Homesearch bidding system and you can bid on any computer, phone or library.

Q Can I move outside Southwark?

A No, you can only move to properties advertised in the Southwark Homesearch bidding system although sometimes properties from other boroughs are advertised.

Q Can I get grant for moving via Smart Move scheme?

A **Yes**, you will be entitled to Smart Move grant money if you are secure council tenant downsizing to smaller property.

Q I am in the Smart Move scheme will I still get the grant money if I move with House Exchange?

A Yes, if you move with house exchange and you swap properties with another tenant within the borough, you will qualify for the grant money.

Q Why can't my adult child and I be moved from my 2 bedroom property into 2 separate 1 bedroom properties?

A The Smart Move scheme was set up to help those tenants whose households decreased in number move to right-sized accommodation and give an opportunity to a new household bidding for accommodation.

Q When I move can I have a joint tenancy with my adult child who is moving with me?

A This is an Area Office decision and the question should be put to them when signing for a tenancy.

Q The Homesearch bidding system has no properties I desire in it, is there another way I can get an offer?

A No, everyone bids for the properties on the system. Smart Move is not a quick move scheme and all within the scheme will wait until something they want to bid for is advertised on the system.

Q I have no money to move and need the grant money to enable me to move?

A All grant monies are triggered by the tenant closing their rent account at the end of their current tenancy, we are not able to pay any monies until after they move.

Q I am in the under-occupation scheme but am also a victim of violence can I get anymore priority as I need to move quickly?

A The under-occupation scheme gives you the highest priority within the system, Band 1. If a quick move is required, bidding for less desirable properties or those on higher floors can help facilitate a quick move.

Q They haven't given me enough time to move out of my old property can I pay both rents for a couple of weeks?

A Yes you can, provided this is agreed with your old housing officer that this is what you are intending to do.