

The Council has now adopted a Discharge of Duty into the Private Rented Sector Policy. This means that, where possible, we will seek to discharge our housing duty with an offer of private rented sector housing. The policy is available on our website: <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/housingbeta/usefulcontactsandinfo/housingpublications.aspx>

Under the new law, we are only required to make ONE offer of private rented accommodation to end our housing duty towards you. The property offered could be located anywhere in the UK, as long as we consider it to be suitable for your household's needs. Your temporary accommodation placement will also be terminated.

To give you an alternative and greater choice about where you are rehoused, this Council has developed the **Private Rented Access Scheme (PRAS)**. This is available to homeless households to whom the Council has accepted the homelessness duty. If you are rehoused through this scheme, you will still move to private rented housing, but you find the accommodation rather than waiting for us to make an offer.

Following a successful trial, PRAS has now been amended to include a £3,000 payment to help you with cost of moving.

How the scheme works:

- You choose the private rented accommodation you wish to live in, including the location and type of accommodation – the Council does not find or offer properties through the scheme.
- There is no restriction as to the location of the accommodation – it is possible to choose a property in any area of the UK providing it is affordable and the correct size for your household.
- The Council will pay up to 10 weeks rent, directly to the landlord, to cover the cost of the deposit/rent in advance – you do not need to pay this back to the Council.
- We will also pay YOU a one-off £3,000 resettlement payment to help you with costs such as removals and redecoration – you do not need to pay this back to the Council.
- The Council can offer you help with moving and maintaining your tenancy.
- To qualify for the scheme, you must have demonstrated good behaviour as a tenant, and cannot owe significant rent arrears.

If you would like to be considered for the Private Rented Access Scheme or would like further information on the scheme, please contact the Housing and Homelessness Assessment Team by telephone or email on 020 7361 3982/3 or housing@rbkc.gov.uk. Further information can also be found at <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/housingbeta/usefulcontactsandinfo/privaterenting/privaterentedaccessscheme.aspx>