

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**2 February 2021**

**Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors**

**Questions from Kathy Laurence**

**To Councillor Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts & Tourism, Housing and Communities**

**Statement 1**

Please can I submit a topic/question for submission to the CABINET Meeting on 2nd February 2020. It is regarding the information below on the possible purchase of our homes by Wiltshire Council to help resolve our eviction issues.

My concerns are the following and i would like to request a formal response in writing please to all questions?

**Question 1 (21-23)**

Firstly, if they purchase the homes, under what criteria will they allow people in them? If our home is one of the ones purchased.

**Response:**

The Council is actively looking at ways in which it could help people avoid homelessness. If properties were purchased tenanted there would be no intention to require tenants to move to smaller properties although the Council always encourages tenants to move to the right size home.

**Question 2 (21-24)**

Under the Wiltshire Housing scheme, we are only entitled to a one bedroom flat with no pets. Our current home is a large detached 3 double bed house with garage.

**Response:**

The Council's allocation policy sets out the size eligibility for households and homes and is based on the governments bedroom standard to ensure we make best use of all housing stock.

**Question 3 (21-25)**

What confirmation do we have that if they purchase our homes, will they allow us to remain in our homes regardless of our entitlement.

**Response:**

Its needs to be stated the purchase of homes is not within the Council's gift. As stated previously the Council always encourages tenants to move to the right size home

**Statement 2:**

My second topic is along the same theme of being evicted by the MOD/Annington Homes. Without help - we simply cannot move. I am sure you are aware that there are not enough homes locally available for all of us to move, to get a similar home to our current one it would be a 50% increase in rent.

Please can all residents affected by this receive an update on any progress being made with DIO or Annington Homes in relation to the policy being changed from vacant homes, to homes with sitting tenants?

**Question 4 (21-26)**

our problem with moving, is a bad credit rating and no estate agents will help us - they are asking for a guarantor who either earns or has savings of £50K + - this is ridiculous. This is the area we need support in and maybe many other families. We have an excellent reference from our current landlord - but it is not enough.

**Response:**

The Council will work with households to help them avoid homelessness if they are required to leave their current homes.

**Question 5 (21-27)**

Without a guarantor, estate agents are asking for a deposit of 6-12 Months - which is £6K - £12K or more - again we do not have this.

**Response:**

The Council knows that it can be difficult for households to access private rented accommodation if they do not have a guarantor or poor credit rating and will support households in such circumstances to help them avoid homelessness.

**Question 6 (21-28)**

What help can you offer in terms of a guarantor or this huge deposit required.

**Response:**

The Council does not provide deposits of 6 months to help people access private rented accommodation but it can provide some financial assistance depending on the household circumstances.