



...on the Transitional Accommodation Placement Policy

Find out more about the consultation process and how you
can have your say

Find Central Bedfordshire Council online at

 www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Why do we consult?

Councillors are responsible for making decisions for the Council. Holding a consultation gives those directly affected by a proposal the opportunity to have their say and influence the decision that is made. Those directly affected, community organisations and the general public are encouraged to review the proposals and feedback their opinions and ideas to the Council.

During the consultation process you can request further information, ask questions and request that the Council looks into alternative options that have not been identified.

All comments made during the consultation process are recorded. The Council will publish its response to these comments and this information will be taken into account by Councillors, so they can make an informed decision.

What we are consulting on:

Transitional accommodation covers both interim placements made under Section 188 Housing Act 1996 (HA96), and longer term temporary accommodation placements for households under section 193 HA96.

Central Bedfordshire Council wants the best possible quality of life for all its residents with better affordable accommodation and better living standards.

The Supreme Court judgement on *Nzolameso v City of Westminster* recommended that local authorities produce, approve and publish policies on allocating temporary accommodation.

The introduction of this policy will help the Council meet the recommendations of the Supreme Court and its statutory responsibilities in respect of the suitability of accommodation, including the Suitability of Accommodation Orders, the Homelessness Code of Guidance 2006, and the Supplementary Guidance issued in 2012. It has also been formulated having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as required by section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

The Council is therefore consulting on the proposed Transitional Accommodation Placement policy.

If you would like to take part in this or would like more information about what we are proposing please see the information at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or contact us using the details at the end of this document.

Consultation Timetable

Key Date	Activity
5 th March 2018	Consultation opens
14 th May 2018	Consultation ends
12 th June 2018	Report to Executive for decision
1 st July 2018	Implementation of Executive decision

How we will consult

Everyone can respond to the consultation by reading this information sheet, which identifies key areas of the policy, and completing the consultation questionnaire.

If you have any questions about the policy, need more information, or would like the Council to consider other ideas, these would be welcome. The ways you can contact the Council are explained at the end of this document.

For those people who are most directly affected by the proposal – the people who live in temporary accommodation – we will organise drop in meetings and provide all consultation information on site so that it is easily accessible and will enable everyone who wants, to participate in the consultation.

The consultation activities with residents and relatives will be tailored to individual requirements.

What the proposals are trying to achieve

- This policy will give greater transparency in decision making and will provide guidelines to officers allocating temporary accommodation.
- We want to ensure people are placed in the most appropriate accommodation that meets their individual needs and supports them to maintain their current education, employment and social networks.
- We want the best possible quality of life for all residents of Central Bedfordshire with better affordable accommodation and better living standards.
- The Council is committed to reducing numbers of people within its temporary accommodation by moving them into suitable permanent accommodation to suit their needs as quickly as is practicably possible where the Council has a permanent rehousing duty.
- The Council is committed to improving services for people within the constraints of a challenging financial climate. We are doing this through simplifying processes, as well as looking at the way we commission services to get better value for money.

Have your say

We want to know the views of current temporary accommodation residents and others who have an interest in this policy. We also want to understand what the positive and negative impacts will be on individuals and how we might best manage these issues.

You can ask us any questions or tell us your view through the methods on the next page. We are particularly keen to get your views on the following areas of the new policy:

- **The proposed tier system that will be used as guidance for our decisions:**

Section 9, 11 & 12 of the proposed Transitional Accommodation Placement Policy:

9.5 *The purpose of this Policy is to clarify what the term ‘reasonably practicable’ usually means in terms of the suitability of offers made within and outside of the Central Bedfordshire area. Whilst it is not possible to provide a definitive position, this guidance is intended to frame the decisions made in each individual case, having regard to the: –*

- *Accessibility of the Transitional Accommodation (TA) location, including transport links to shops and local facilities (e.g. healthcare)*
- *Proximity of the TA location (and distance to travel) to a place of current employment*
- *Proximity of the TA location (and distance to travel) to schools, which children are currently attending*
- *The significance of any disruption which would be caused by the location of the accommodation to the employment, caring responsibilities or education of the person or members of the person’s household;*

9.6 *The criteria above will be applied on the basis of reasonableness in deciding whether an offer of TA is made inside or outside of the Central Bedfordshire area. There will be locations in close proximity to (but outside of) Central Bedfordshire which are suitable and accessible to settlements within Central Bedfordshire. However, it will also be the case (given its large geographical area) that an offer of TA within the area is unsuitable, as for example Potton, is very distant from say Caddington. Yet an offer of TA in a neighbouring local authority area may be suitable due to good transport links and the proximity to current places of employment, schools etc.*

11.1 *Suitability of Accommodation, factors to consider (see policy for detail)*

12.6 *Criteria for prioritising placements inside/outside of Central Bedfordshire (see policy for detail)*

- **The support offer to those residents placed outside of the Central Bedfordshire Area.**

Section 12.11 of the proposed Transitional Accommodation Placement Policy:

To support the transition to a new area, the council will check whether the family has any involvement with other services. Where no existing support has been identified the council may offer support to people after their move for a reasonable period, on a case by case basis.

- **The criteria for moves within temporary accommodation**

Section 14.1 of the proposed Transitional Accommodation Placement Policy:

There are circumstances under which existing temporary accommodation may become unsuitable or unavailable and the Council will have to find alternative accommodation for existing tenants who need to move.

For more information

Visit our website for more information and complete our online questionnaire:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

Email us at: consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to us at: FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need a stamp)
Transitional Accommodation Policy Consultation
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5TQ

The consultation is open until 18th May 2017

If you need information in alternative formats or languages...

Email: consultations@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 300 5744

Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

**Central
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Central Bedfordshire in contact

Contact us...

by telephone: 0300 300 5744

by email: consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to TAP Consultation, Central Bedfordshire Council,
Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ