



**East
Devon**

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Downsizing: the best move you may ever make!

**By helping others you could also
help yourself to up to £3,000**

About this booklet

This booklet provides information on our Downsizing scheme. If you require any further information or advice please contact us (details on back page).



To request this information in an alternative format or language please call 01395 516551 or email csc@eastdevon.gov.uk

We consider requests on an individual basis

- Are you living in a house that is too big for your needs?
- Is your garden now too much for you to look after properly?
- Do you want to move closer to family or friends?
- Do you need help with making this move?

If you have answered 'yes' to any of these questions, we may be able to help you! Read on for information about our Downsizing Scheme.

About the scheme

Many tenants live in homes that are too big for their current needs. We also have lots of tenants and new applicants who are desperate for larger family accommodation. By 'downsizing' to a smaller home you could help each other. If you move from a general purpose house to a smaller one or two-bedroom property we will pay up to £3,000 to help you move.

What size of home can I move to?

The scheme applies to tenants who move from family-size accommodation to one or two-bedroom properties (which do not necessarily have to be sheltered accommodation). You choose where you want to live.

If you wish to move you will need to register on Devon Home Choice. To do this visit www.devonhomechoice.com or speak to a member of our Housing Needs team who will be able to help you. If you are unable to complete an online form, paper copies are available. Once registered, you can bid for properties that you like, in the areas that you like. You will be given priority over most other people on the waiting list.

Can I apply if I have rent arrears?

Yes, but if you are accepted for the scheme any money payable will, in the first instance, be used to pay off your rent arrears. You will only receive any balance once the arrears have been paid.

What if my current property is adapted to meet my special needs?

If your current property has adaptations to enable you to live there, we would prefer you to move to a property that has already been adapted to suit your needs. However in exceptional

circumstances we will agree to a move to smaller property that needs some further adaptations and in these cases we will pay for these and you will not have to fund such alterations.

How much money will I receive?

The amount is made up of a £1,500 compensation payment and then £500 for each bedroom released, up to a maximum of £1,500. You can spend this money on whatever you wish: perhaps to help you furnish your new property, or meet the cost of removal.

Table of compensation payments for downsizing

Current property (bedrooms)	New smaller property (bedrooms)	Standard compensation payment	Payment for bedrooms released	Total payment
Five	One	£1,500	£1,500*	£3,000
Five	Two	£1,500	£1,500	£3,000
Four	One	£1,500	£1,500	£3,000
Four	Two	£1,500	£1,000	£2,500
Three	One	£1,500	£1,000	£2,500
Three	Two	£1,500	£500	£2,000
Two**	One	£1,500	£500	£2,000

* Maximum payment

** Moves from two-bedroom properties to one-bedroom properties will only be eligible for the downsizing payment in certain circumstances and where a property suitable for a family is being released

Can anyone help me with the moving arrangements?

Yes. A member of staff can help you with some of the tasks that come with moving house, such as arranging for the connection of services (gas, electric, telephone, etc.), liaising with removal companies, and arranging for your carpets and curtains to be fitted.

Have other people benefitted from the scheme?

Mr and Mrs Saunders from Bidmead Close in Exmouth moved to a smaller home and said:

'Our house was too big for us after the family had left home and we seemed to be rattling around inside of it. It took all our time to keep the grass cut, and there was the cost of heating a large house. We now live in a bungalow where everything is designed to make life easy. We do not have to worry about looking after a home and garden that had become a burden. We downsized and it was the best move we ever made.'

Contact us



Phone:

01395 517459



Visit:

Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL
(Monday–Friday, 8.30 am–5 pm)



Write:

Housing Needs, East Devon District Council,
Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL



Email:

housingneeds@eastdevon.gov.uk



Online:

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