

DECANT POLICY

Glossary of Terms

'Property' includes dwellings, decants, any other accommodation leased from or on behalf of the Council.

'Tenant(s)' includes licensees, secure tenants, Introductory tenants and joint tenants

1 STATEMENT ON POLICY

- 1.1 This Policy covers circumstances where a tenant is required to leave their property due to urgent or major repairs or other Housing Management reasons. This Policy does not cover redevelopment schemes or major planned works which are covered by the City Council's Home Loss Policy.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Policy is to explain what the City Council will do when a tenant has to temporarily vacate the property for major repairs or other Housing Management reasons. This process is called a "decant". Tenants should not experience financial loss as a result of being decanted.
- 1.3 Cambridge City Council is contracted under the Tenancy Agreement to keep in good repair the structure and exterior of the home of tenants.

2 KEY ISSUES FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- 2.1 If at all possible Cambridge City Council will carry out repairs and improvements with the tenant and their family remaining in their home. However, there may be occasions where this is not possible and the tenant will have to move out temporarily.
- 2.2 Where possible it is easier if tenants can stay with relatives or friends for the duration of the works. If this is possible then, depending upon the make-up of the household, disturbance payments up to £50 per day can be paid to the tenant. The tenant will continue to be responsible for

paying the rent and council tax on their permanent address for the duration of the decant.

- 2.3 If the tenant cannot possibly stay with relatives or friends then there are two options:
- Alternative council accommodation for a temporary period
 - Staying in a hotel, such as Travelodge
- 2.4 Tenants that are decanted into another council property on a temporary basis will assume and sign a licence to occupy their temporary home. The tenant will also sign a separate undertaking stating that they will return to their original home once works are completed.
- 2.5 If the tenant refuses to return to the original home, CCC will take legal action to resolve this.
- 2.6 The council will either arrange or pay for removal costs. These payments will be for the actual costs of the removal.
- 2.7 Additional payments can be made to cover other expenses incurred including for example, disconnection and reconnection of services or re-direction of mail.

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