

Dear Resident

I am deeply aware that the past few months since the Grenfell Tower tragedy have been extremely difficult for you and your family. Along with Council officers and councillors, I remain entirely committed to helping you.

Providing you with a permanent home will be key. The Council has pledged to find you a permanent home by June 2018.

We are very aware that living in hotels is extremely difficult and challenging especially if you have children and we are committed to helping you move into more suitable accommodation as soon as possible.

So we can acquire the best possible homes for you, we have been listening to your feedback about what you need and want from a property.

As a result, we are securing 300 properties for over 200 households who require permanent housing.

We have also agreed a new package of support to help you start to rebuild your lives.

Change to the rent free period

You will not be required to pay rent, service charges, utility bills (gas, electricity, water), or council tax until 1 July 2019. This means no one pays a two year period.

Whether you are in self-contained interim accommodation or have moved to your permanent home, you will not have to pay these costs until this date.

This will replace the commitment that you would not have to pay rent, service charges, utility bills or council tax for 12 months triggered by you moving out of emergency accommodation.

Continuation of financial allowances

Support will continue to be provided to enable you and your family to move out of hotel and emergency accommodation into more suitable housing.

Direct payments will continue to be provided for you at £300 per person per week, and £150 per child per week (age 0-5) for the first three months after moving out of hotel accommodation, followed by three months' support of £150 per person per week, and £75 per child per week (age 0-5).

Your key worker, together with your housing officer, will develop a personalised resettlement, care and support plan with you, should you want it, that will provide practical and psychological help with your longer term recovery.

Finding your own interim self-contained accommodation

The Council is committed to rehousing all former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk into a new permanent home within 12 months of the fire. While we are confident we will meet our commitment, it is likely that some residents will not be rehoused until next year so we are working hard to make available good quality local private rented accommodation for you to move to. However, if you wish you can look for a private rented property yourself that suits your family's needs and is in an area you like. The Council will then make every effort to secure that property for you. You will not have to commit to a tenancy length. As soon as you accept and sign for a permanent home, you be able to move out of your interim accommodation.

Remember – you will not have to pay rent, utility bills or council tax for this property as these costs will be covered by the Council and you will keep your priority for rehousing.

I have enclosed a leaflet that summarises the housing options available to you.

You will also find enclosed an updated version of our 'frequently asked questions' on the rehousing process: '*The Housing Commitment to Residents who lived in Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk*'. They have also been made available on the Grenfell Response website www.grenfellresponse.org.uk

I and my colleagues remain committed to helping you now and into the future.

My very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Taylor-Smith', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Councillor Kim Taylor-Smith

Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Grenfell Recovery, Housing and Property