

Gerri Scott
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation
Gerri.Scott@southwark.gov.uk

**ALL RESIDENTS
OF LEDBURY TOWER BLOCKS**

Date: 19 July 2017

Dear Residents

I wrote to you last Thursday, 13 July, following on from the public meeting at Camelot School which took place on Tuesday, 11 July. I told you that Arup, the structural engineers appointed by the council, had not found anything of concern in their surveys with regards to the structure of the four tower blocks. Their surveys are ongoing and I will report back to you on their findings as soon as I can.

Some residents at the meeting asked what the council would do regarding rehousing. The same question was asked at the deputation to the full council meeting on Wednesday, 12 July. Councillor Cryan and Councillor Livingstone responded to the deputation and said that anybody who was concerned about their safety would be offered the opportunity to go into Band 1 and bid for an alternative home.

I am writing to let you know how you can apply to go on Southwark's homesearch bidding scheme and be placed in Band 1. This is available for existing tenants and their households, not individual members of those households. I have heard from some residents already and I know that some people may not be aware of how this process works.

If you feel unsafe and you wish to move home you will be given Band 1 priority status on the council's homesearch bidding scheme. This is the highest possible priority we can award you on the Choice Based Lettings Scheme. Once registered, you will be able to bid for a new home, including both Southwark Council and housing association properties advertised on the council's homesearch website. You will have a right to return to your home, if you only wish to move away from the estate temporarily, while the works are completed.

To make an application, you will need to complete a form and provide documents about you and your household. You can do this online yourself, or we will help you do this online locally. We are arranging for a Housing Solutions Officer to be based with the team at the Ledbury TRA Hall.

There are several hundred applicants in Band 1, all in need of an urgent move. This means that you may not find a suitable home immediately; however, you will be in the highest priority grouping on the waiting list.

To assist with the cost of moving, a sum of £5,800 will be provided.

Please find attached questions and answers that will help you with your application should you feel that you would like to move.

In the meantime, we are continuing to address the fire safety issues in the four tower blocks. We hope to install a new system on the communal landings which will enable us to reduce the number of fire marshals. We are also finalising the specification for the permanent solution to deal with the fire compartmentation issues. I will let you know the timescales for both of these measures as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Gerri Scott
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation

How can I register on the Council's Housing List?

In order to access the housing application form you can go online at www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark and follow the instructions on how to register.

Alternatively, you can speak to one of our housing choice officers who will help you make your application: -

Quesha McFarlane 0207 525 2044

Celestina Madubuobi 0207 525 4193

What if I am already registered?

Please speak to one of the dedicated officers above who will assist you to update your application.

How do I bid for a home?

All properties are advertised from Thursday morning through to midnight on Sunday and you will be able to place a bid on the property of your choice. This is done online via the homesearch website where you will be able to apply for one property each week. As an applicant in Band 1 you will receive the highest priority for a new home.

How soon will I be able to move?

This will depend on the type of properties you are looking for and how flexible you are on your areas of choice. It also depends on how many other applicants are looking at the same type of property. However, in Band 1 you will have the highest priority.

Can I get help to move?

A dedicated local team has been set up to work with residents in the Ledbury Towers, they will also be able to give you advice and assist you with your move. Your Resident Services Officers are: -

Hema Vashi - Bromyard House - 020 7525 2557

Charmain Bynoe - Sarnsfield House - 020 7525 7473

Dele Adeoye - Skenfrith House - 0207 525 3525

Modupe Somoye – Peterchurch House - 020 7525 3790

Officers will be based at the TRA Hall at Pencraig Way, SE15 1SH, from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday if you need any help. We can also arrange appointments outside of these hours at your convenience.