

Glossary of Terms and Words



Area Housing Office

The area housing office is the Council office, or sub-office, which caters for the part of Perth and Kinross you live in. For details about which area office covers you, and how to contact them, visit the Council Housing - Area Housing Teams section of this website. If you're still not sure to contact please phone the main Council enquiries number on 01738 475000.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Generally speaking this means behaviour by anyone at any time that falls below accepted standards. This can range from criminal acts such as vandalism and threatening behaviour, as well as nuisance, noise and the dumping of rubbish.

Council Tax

A local tax which is used to fund essential services provided by Perth & Kinross Council, such as schools, social work, community care, roads, transport, waste and recycling. Charges are based on property Valuation Bands, determined by the Tayside Valuation Joint Board.

Housing & Community Care

The department of Perth & Kinross Council which is responsible for housing services. The Executive Director of Housing & Community Care is David Burke. The Head of Housing is Helen Turley.

Housing Benefit

This is a locally-administered income-related welfare benefit. It helps low-income households by contributing towards the cost of rented accommodation.

Housing Revenue Account

The part of the Council's budget which manages money paid in from Council tenants in rent, and from which investments in improving buildings and services for tenants are paid out.

Housing Stock

All the properties in Perth and Kinross under the ownership and management of Perth & Kinross Council.

Joint Tenancy

A tenancy held jointly by two or more people, such as (but not only) a husband and a wife.

Maintenance Contract

A legal document which describes and agrees the responsibilities of a contractor undertaking maintenance duties on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council.

Mutual Exchange

When two households who, with the written permission of the Council and any other landlord involved, swap houses.

Notice of Abandonment

A legal document served when a tenant leaves their home without notifying the Council.



Notice of Proceedings for Recovery of Possession

A legal document served on a tenant to enable the Council to start court proceedings to recover a house.

Nuisance

Unreasonable behaviour which interferes with the rights of others to use and enjoy their home and community in peace.

Rent Arrears

Unpaid and outstanding rent payments.

Tenancy Agreement

A written agreement under which the Council, as landlord, let a property to a tenant.



Looking for more information?

If there are any other terms or phrases used in these tenant guides which you don't understand please ask at your local area housing office or email us at

housinginfo@pkc.gov.uk