



Press Release

September 22, 2026

Mould-ridden flats overhauled after council intervention

A portfolio of substandard flats owned by one landlord that were variously being rented in poor condition or standing empty have been overhauled following council intervention.

Fenland District Council stepped in to push forward changes and the seven Wisbech flats, some of them suffering heavily from damp and mould, have now been sold to a new landlord, refurbished and are providing much-needed housing to tenants.

Cllr Sam Hoy, Fenland District Council's portfolio holder for housing, said: "These flats have become an example of the involved work we do to both drive up the level of quality housing in the district and ensure much-needed homes do not stand empty and deteriorating.

"We work closely with legitimate, good-intentioned landlords and property owners, and with residents, to help ensure properties are available, and to defend the right of everyone to live with security and dignity.

"Tenants sometimes don't realise they have the right to complain or are too afraid to for fear of eviction or their rent going up, but they have lots of rights and protections.

"We urge anyone who isn't being treated fairly, is living in substandard conditions or feels they may have to leave where they're living and doesn't know if they'll have anywhere to go, to turn to us. The earlier support is sought, the more likely the prevention of an emergency housing situation is.

"Please look to our website for help and if you can't find the answer, contact us."

The council became aware of these Wisbech flats when a tenant sought support with paying a deposit. The council was able to help the tenant to find more suitable accommodation and advised the flat owner the flat was not habitable.

The landlord did not wish to keep and maintain the flats and offered them for sale.

They were bought by a new landlord and refurbished. The final flat was recently completed and all the flats are now occupied.

The council is committed to preventing homelessness and carries out a raft of work to do so.

Anyone who is unhappy with the standard of the property they are living in or fears they may have to leave and could become homeless can seek support from the council. In the year from April 2025 to March 2026, 1,801 households sought advice from the council.

The council investigates and supports action to improve around 250 private rental properties every year.

In 2025/26, the council also drove action to bring 67 empty homes back into use. It encourages reports of empty homes from the community. In some cases, this leads to discoveries of incorrect Council Tax declarations relating to the home, meaning the public purse is suffering and other taxpayers are picking up the bill.

The council offers support and information to landlords to help them deliver a good service and stay updated with legislation, including the new Renters' Rights Act.

Discover more at:

- Advice for landlords: www.fenland.gov.uk/landlordadvice
- Housing and homelessness support: www.fenland.gov.uk/housing
- Empty homes advice and reporting: www.fenland.gov.uk/emptyhomes

Ends

Notes to Editors

Photos:

Before: Mould in one of the flats made the bathroom ceiling black.

After: The flat has been transformed

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk

