



Home Choice is our way of allocating Housing Association properties which have become available for let.

Every week we advertise the properties that are available so that you can apply to be considered for them.

PLEASE NOTE

This the only way you will be considered for properties through the housing register so please read through the following guidance notes carefully.

Where will properties be advertised?

Information about properties available will be updated weekly on a Tuesday by 12 noon. There are several ways you can access this information.

- Log on to Weymouth.gov.uk and go to the Home Choice page. You will find a list of available properties and instructions telling you how to bid.
- Call the Home Choice Line to hear information about properties available that week. The Home Choice Line is for information only. You will not be able to leave messages on this line.

Home Choice Line 01305 838300

- Visit Housing Reception at the Council Offices and check the Home Choice notice boards for lists of properties available each week. These notice boards will also be available with updated information in locations throughout the borough.

Properties will be advertised by road name and area. Applicants must not approach people still living in those properties to request private viewings.

How do I bid for a property?

We try to give you as much information about the property to help you decide if you are interested in the property and to help you to make informed choices about properties that you realistically have a chance of successfully bidding for. You should check that your family size matches the property size.

You will receive some Home Choice bidding coupons, the coupons show your application number, which helps us to identify your bids.

There are four ways to bid

- In writing to the Council Offices
- In person at the Council Offices
- By telephone on 01305 838400
- By e-mail to housingadvice@weymouth.gov.uk

Each property has a code you must state in order to let us know which property, or properties you wish to be considered for.

Bids must be submitted by 12 noon on the Monday after the property has been advertised. No late bids can be considered.

How will I know if my bid has been successful?

We do not notify everyone who applies if their bid has been successful or not. The successful applicant will receive a letter informing them that they have been nominated to the relevant landlord for their consideration. It is important that you contact us to indicate whether you are still interested in the property. Your circumstances will be checked at this point to ensure that you are eligible for the offer.

If you have successfully bid for a property we will not accept any further bids in the following weeks. If you are not able to take up the original tenancy offered then you will be able to start bidding again once that decision has been reached.

What happens if I refuse a property?

You should only bid for properties that you seriously wish to consider but we do understand that sometimes you may wish to refuse a property. This will not affect your position on the Housing Register. If you are refusing a property offered under a homeless duty you should discuss the matter with a Housing Advisor first.

How long will I have to wait for a property?

Information about each property allocated will be made available on the Home Choice webpage and on our notice boards. This is a simple way of checking to see what your

position is for such a property simply by looking at the band the successful bidder was in. No personal information about successful bidders will be made available.

How do I know what band I am in?

The Housing Register is split into four bands plus a Priority Band. You will be advised which band you are in when you join the Housing Register or if your circumstances change which may affect your band.

More information on the bands can be found in our Allocations Policy Summary which available on our website at www.weymouth.gov.uk or from the Council Offices on request.

Where can I get advice and support

For information about using Home Choice, please contact 01305 838400. Staff will be able to advise you of which band you are in and give general advice.

We are very concerned that all people wishing to be considered for Housing Association properties will be able to use the Home Choice scheme.

We have tried to make applying for properties under the Home Choice scheme as easy as possible but some people will need extra assistance. You should let us know if you have difficulty or require assistance.

If you are unable to check the weekly advert and submit bids and have no one such as a support worker, friend, relative etc to help you may be able to go on to our Assisted List. A Housing Advisor will be nominated to check the advert against your requirements each week and submit bids on your behalf.

You will be given the details of any person who will be applying for properties on your behalf, and how to contact them.

If you would like to join the Assisted List, please contact the Housing Advice & Homelessness Team on 01305 838400.

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio format, another language or would like to talk to a member of staff to discuss your needs please contact us on: 01305 838000