# Devon Home Choice

How we prioritise applications

Your application will be placed into 1 of 5 housing need bands. This will be based on our assessment of your housing need, and whether or not you have a local connection to Devon.

The 5 housing need bands are as follows (see the Devon Home Choice policy on the Useful Information page for further details):

Band A - Emergency Housing Need

Your application will only be placed in the Emergency housing need band (A) if your need for housing is assessed as so exceptional that you must take priority over all other applicants. Substantial evidence must exist to award this priority.

The following are examples of the type of situations that would qualify:

- You have been assessed as having an Urgent health/wellbeing need
- You live in a home assessed as being in a state of emergency disrepair
- You need to move to escape violence or threat of violence, harassment or a traumatic event

Band B: High Housing Need

Your application will be placed in the High housing need band (B) if you:

- Have been accepted as statutorily homeless by a Devon local authority, and where it is assessed that it is not possible and appropriate to find you private rented accommodation
- You are homeless, or are threatened with homelessness, and have been placed in the 'Homelessness Reduction Act - Qualifying Applicants' category by a Devon local authority
- Are severely overcrowded (e.g. you lack 2 or more bedrooms, or have 2 children who lack a bedroom, such as a single parent with 2 children under 10 in a 1 bed home)
- Are a tenant of a Devon Home Choice partner landlord and are seeking to move to a home with fewer bedrooms
- Have been assessed as having a high health/wellbeing need
- Live in a home assessed as being in a state of High disrepair
- Have been assessed as ready for move on from supported housing

You will also be awarded this priority if it is assessed that doing so:

- Meets a social need or supports the delivery of another service
- Leads to effective management of social housing within Devon

Band C: Medium Housing Need

Your application will be placed in the Medium housing need band (C) if you:

- Lack 1 bedroom
- Have been assessed as having a medium health/wellbeing need

- Live on or above the 4th floor with children aged under 8
- Have served in the UK armed forces and would otherwise have had your application placed in Band D
- Need to move for work, where you would otherwise have to travel more than 30 miles (each way) from home to work

Band D: Low Housing Need

Your application will be placed in the Low housing need band (D) if you:

- Have been assessed as not having a permanent home, or at risk of becoming homeless. This may include people who are rough sleeping, have no fixed abode or are 'sofa surfing', as well as households accepted as statutorily homeless but where it is assessed as possible and appropriate to find private rented accommodation, or those assessed as not in being priority need or are intentionally homeless. Please see the policy for further information.
- Have been assessed as having a low health/wellbeing need
- Share facilities, such as a toilet, bath, shower or kitchen
- Have a housing need but have no local connection to Devon
- Have been assessed as having deliberately worsened your circumstances
- Meet a local priority agreed by the local authority managing your application

Band E: No Housing Need

Your application will be placed in the No housing need band (E) if it is assessed that you live in a home that is adequate to meet your housing need, or you have income/ capital that would enable you to resolve your own housing needs.

Exeter City Council, Teignbridge District Council and Torbay Council will not register applicants that they assess to have no housing need, and who would otherwise have had their application placed in Band E.

Applicants living in the Exeter, Teignbridge and Torbay council areas who have been assessed as having no housing need, will not be able to register with another Devon local authority, unless they have a local connection to that area.