

# Applying for Housing with Powys County Council and Housing Associations



## How to apply ....

If you are looking for housing in Powys, the first step is to contact our First Contact Officers on 01597 827464 or call into your local council office. They will have a chat about your circumstances and assess whether you are eligible to go onto our waiting list.

In order to be given priority onto the Housing Register, you must be in housing need and ready to move. If accepted, your case will be referred to a Housing Management and Options Officer who will register your details and agree with you whether social housing is the right option for you. All options will be considered to find the solution which is best for you.

A copy of the Council's Allocations Policy and Procedure can be found on our website <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/housing/apply-for-council-housing/>



## Who can apply ....

Anyone aged 16 or over can apply for housing, although certain groups may not be eligible. These include:

- Certain people from abroad
- If an applicant has previously been evicted or found guilty of unacceptable behaviour this will be taken into account when considering their housing options



## What happens next ....

A "Housing Plan" will be agreed detailing the options available to you and any actions required by both yourself and ourselves to ensure that we can achieve the agreed option. If you fail to comply with the agreed plan, this may result in your application having a lower priority.



## If you are dissatisfied ....

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have dealt with your application, such as decisions regarding your eligibility and any facts which we have relied upon in making our decision, you may request a review of our decision.



## Receiving an offer ....

When a suitable property becomes available a formal offer will be made by telephone, text or email and you will be given 48 hours to respond. If no response is received to this offer within 48 hours, the offer will be withdrawn and a review letter will be sent out giving you 7 days to make contact. If there is still no response you will be removed from the housing register.

# Allocations Scheme Summary

It is the aim to allocate social housing to those in need. The housing need criteria on which applicants are considered are those referred to in legislation and Welsh Government guidance.

For an applicant to have priority on the housing register they must meet one of the reasonable preference categories, as set out in legislation

- People who are threatened with homelessness or actually homeless
- People living in unsatisfactory housing conditions
- People who need to move on medical or welfare grounds
- People who would otherwise suffer from hardship

Proof of circumstance may be required.

Please note: Transfer applicants are not given any additional preference - as with other applicants they must be ready to move and in housing need.

Priority will be given to applicants who fall into the following bands. Within each band, priority is given to those on the list the longest. In the event of the application date being the same, priority will be given to the application with the lowest application number.

## Band 1

Priority will be given to those who have a housing need, who are ready to move and require an urgent move. Senior staff of the relevant partner organisation will need to agree, based on evidence, when emergency/urgent moves are required.

## Band 2

Priority is next given to social housing tenants in Powys who are affected by the under-occupation of their homes in accordance with the DWP property size criteria ("bedroom tax"), have a housing need and are ready to move or Service Personnel who have been seriously injured or disabled in Service and who have an urgent need for social housing.

## Band 3

Priority is next given to those who have a housing need, as defined above, are ready to move but who also have a local connection to the area / town / village of their choice. An applicant may have a connection with more than one community. If the applicant subsequently qualifies for local connection, it is the responsibility of the individual to notify Powys County Council of their change in circumstance so that their application can be re-banded.

## Band 4

Priority is then given to those who have a housing need, as identified above.

## Band 5

Priority is then given to those who have no housing need, as defined above.