



# Information on Harborough Homes



Harborough Homes is our housing register to apply for social housing in the Harborough District.

Harborough Homes is a **Choice-Based Lettings** system, which means that you have the option to choose what property to bid on to suit your needs and wishes.

Harborough District Council do not own any properties but work in partnership with Housing Associations (landlords of social and affordable housing).

## How does it work?

When you join the housing register your application is placed in a band according to your need to move.

Then you can bid on properties that are suitable for you. Bidding on a property means you are registering your interest in it.

When the bidding closes every week the system ranks the applicants by who has the highest band (need to move) and longest waiting time.

You must have a **need to move** and a **local connection** to the Harborough District to join the register.

## What is a need to move?

Only people who need to move from their current accommodation or those who are currently homeless are eligible to join the housing register.

You may need to move to a larger property due to your family growing or needing to downsize to a smaller property.

You may need to move because you need an adapted property for your medical needs or because of damp or mould in the house affecting your health.

**Harborough Homes**

[hhs@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:hhs@harborough.gov.uk)

01858 821019

## How do I apply?

You can apply to join the housing register **online** by going to our website:

[www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

**You will need an email address to activate your account and you can set your own password.**

If you do not have an email address we can assist you in setting one up, it only takes 5 minutes!

Or if you cannot use a computer and will not be placing your own bids then we can create an account without an email address.

## What is a local connection?

A local connection to Harborough District is if you have one of the following (more details are in our allocations policy online):

- (a) you have lived in the District for at least 2 years preceding application,
- (b) you are employed on a permanent basis or within the district,
- (c) you have close family members who have lived in the District for at least the past 5 years,
- (d) You are fleeing violence or threats of violence and have been accepted as priority homeless,
- (e) Other special circumstances

**All applications will be considered on their individual circumstances.**

## How do I bid?

Once your application is assessed and you have a housing need band, then you can log onto your **online account** to search for properties.

We advertise properties every week from 9am Thursday until 9pm the following Tuesday. There are no properties advertised on Wednesdays.

You can log on from a smartphone, tablet or computer. We have computers in the council offices that you can use or you can use the public library.

If you cannot use a computer, tablet or smartphone then we can assist you in bidding over the phone or in the council offices.

## What can I bid on?

You can only bid on properties which are suitable for you and your household's needs.

Some properties are restricted by:

- Number of bedrooms
- Age of main applicant
- Pets
- Mobility needs
- Local connection to the parish/ village
- Number of children

**The adverts will clearly state if there are any restrictions in place.**

All Housing Associations have their own policies, which means that even if we accept you on our Housing Register you may be turned down for a property by the Housing Association.

**Independent Living Schemes** are flats or bungalows which are advertised for applicants who are over 55.



## How does the banding work?

From the information on your application we put you in one of the following 4 housing needs bands:

### Band 1: Time in band = 8 weeks

Homeless Households  
Emergency welfare need to move  
Emergency medical need to move  
Complex need to move  
Management need to move

### Band 2: Time in band = 16 weeks

Threatened with homelessness and working with the council to resolve your homelessness  
2 or more different, qualifying housing needs from Band 2  
Overcrowding by 2 or more bedrooms  
Currently in Supported Accommodation and ready for move on  
Under-occupying social housing

### Band 3:

Poor housing conditions  
Welfare need to move  
Medical need to move  
Right to move  
Insecure accommodation

### Band 4:

Guilty of behaviour in the last 12 months which affects suitability to be a tenant but does not warrant exclusion from the housing register  
Looking for low cost home ownership  
Deliberately worsened circumstances to gain an unfair advantage on the Housing Register