

## Homechoice banding changes - frequently asked questions

### Q. Why are changes happening to the bandings?

A. The bandings themselves are not changing; they will still be in place. Changes are being made to the 'rules' that decide what banding bracket you should be in.

The Allocations Scheme is being changed to better manage the housing waiting list and ensure that homes are allocated fairly to those in greatest need. This will better meet the urgent needs of our communities and the objectives of our Strategic Housing Framework.

### Q. What are the key changes to the bandings?

A. Summary of the changes:

- Statutory Homeless applicants will now be Band C
- Other Homeless applicants will remain Band C
- Meeting two banding criteria will no longer result in moving to the band above e.g. Two Band C criteria will no longer equal a Band 'B'
- Low level welfare need will not be banded
- Removal of medium and low disrepair priority, banding will only be given for urgent and high level cases of disrepair

### Q. Why are those wishing to downsize a Band A?

A. There is a high demand for larger properties; the housing register has many families waiting. Those in larger properties that are no longer suitable for their needs can also struggle with the extra costs associated.

### Q. I require an adapted property, what do the banding changes mean for me?

A. With adapted properties being in short supply and adaptation budgets limited, changes have been made to the policy that will better match applicants requiring adaptations to suitable properties.

New applicants will be able to assign themselves to one of the three mobility assessment categories below:

- Mobility Group 1 – Requires property suitable for wheelchair use indoors and outdoors
- Mobility Group 2 - Requires property suitable for people who cannot manage steps or stairs and may use a wheelchair some of the day
- Mobility Group 3 - Requires property suitable for people only able to manage 1 or 2 steps or small flights of internal/external stairs

When adapted properties are advertised, those homes with a preference to a certain mobility group number will be clearly labelled. If a property is advertised

for a **specific** mobility group then only applicants in that mobility group will be considered and added to the shortlist.

**Q. I am already on Homechoice, and I need an adapted property. How do I know what mobility group I am?**

**A.** Where possible we will use your existing Homechoice information to place you in a mobility group. If any of your information has changed, please contact Homechoice on 0300 1243 161 so we can make sure your application is correctly assessed.

**Q. Will my banding get higher the longer I am on the register?**

**A.** No, banding is based on your personal circumstances not how long you have been registered with Homechoice.

**Q. What do I do if I have had a change that might affect my banding?**

**A.** Any change of circumstance must be raised with Cornwall Housing on 0300 1234 161.