

## **Enfield's Statement on Choice**

Enfield's Allocations Scheme has been framed to allow applicants to express preferences in the type of property and area in which they wish to live, and between the Council and housing associations as landlords.

Choice is enabled through:

- most vacant social rented homes being advertised through the Choice Based Lettings system, Home Connections
- applicants' preferences being taken into account as far as possible when the Council makes them a Direct Offer
- many, but not all, categories of housing applicants having the opportunity to receive more than one offer.

Information being published regularly on the websites of the Council and the Home Connections on the letting of vacant social rented homes in the borough including where homes were located, the type of homes let, which categories of applicants were housed, how many were let by choice based lettings and how many were let by direct offer, approximate waiting times for different categories of applicant. This information will enable applicants to compare their own circumstances with those housed and understand better their own chances of being housed. In the context of a severe shortage of Council and housing association homes in Enfield and the concentration of most social rented homes the east of the borough, it may not be possible to fulfil applicants' preferences.

Enfield expects applicants to be flexible, consider compromising and decide what is most important when making decisions about their preferences for a social rented home: that is, area, type of housing and preferred landlord.

The penalties for refusing offers are clearly set out in this Scheme. For example, applicants who think they may be able to hold out for a house rather than a flat in their area of their choice may find their housing application is cancelled if they refuse offers of accommodation the Council believes are reasonable and meet the needs of the applicant's household.

The following circumstances outline where it is particularly unlikely that the Council can fulfil every aspect of applicants' preferences:

- Where an existing Council or housing association tenant has to be moved urgently
- Where the applicant needs accommodation which rarely becomes available, e.g. wheelchair-adapted accommodation or homes with 4 or more bedrooms
- Where an applicant has not engaged with the choice based lettings system and the Council has decided to make them a direct offer