

Bandings

Band 1

- Applicants accepted by Epping Forest District Council as homeless, eligible for housing assistance, in priority need and not intentionally homeless, in supervised accommodation secured by the Council but excluding those referred to another local housing authority under S.198 of the Housing Act 1996, provided that, generally, no allocation be made to an applicant within 6 months of their being afforded supervised temporary accommodation.
- Applicants whom the multi-agency referral panel for S.A.F.E. (Single Accommodation for Epping Forest) has notified the Council as having been on the project for at least 9 months and are ready to move on.
- Applicants living in the Epping Forest District for more than a year immediately prior to application residing in insanitary, overcrowded or unsatisfactory conditions. *
- Applicants living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to application needing to move on strong medical or welfare grounds or for reasons of disability. **
- Applicants with Council or RSL tenancies in the District wanting to move to accommodation with fewer bedrooms.

Band 2

- Applicants accepted by Epping Forest District Council as homeless and eligible for housing assistance but not in priority need, living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to becoming homeless.
- Applicants of no fixed address living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to being of no fixed address.
- Applicants having to live apart from other members of their household because of lack of accommodation but not for personal reasons (ie family disputes) where the applicant or their partner have lived in the Epping Forest District for more than a year immediately prior to application.

Band 3

- Applicants, excluding those referred to another local housing authority under S.198 of the Housing Act 1996, accepted by Epping Forest District Council as homeless, eligible for housing assistance, in priority need and not intentionally homeless, not in supervised accommodation secured by the Council. (Applicants in this category to move to Band 1 after one year).
- Applicants living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to application with valid Notices to Quit on Assured Shorthold Tenancies or tied accommodation.

Band 4

- Applicants meeting more than one of the criteria in Band 5.

Band 5

- Applicants living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to application and sharing accommodation with another household.
- Applicants living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to application needing one or more additional bedrooms.
- Applicants living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to application needing to move on moderate medical or welfare grounds or for reasons of disability or needing to move to a particular locality in the District where failure to do so will result in them or others suffering hardship.**
- Households including a child under the age of 15 living in the District for more than a year immediately prior to application who have no access to a garden.
- Households including a child under the age of 5 living in the district for more than a year immediately prior to application living in a flat or maisonette above ground floor.

Band 6

- Applicants accepted by Epping Forest District Council as homeless, eligible for assistance, in priority need but found to have become homeless intentionally.
- Applicants accepted by another local housing authority as homeless and eligible for assistance, including those in temporary accommodation secured by another authority.
- Applicants living in the District for less than a year or outside the District in overcrowded, insanitary or unsatisfactory conditions.*
- Applicants living in the District for less than a year or outside the District needing to move on medical, welfare or hardship grounds or for reasons of disability.***
- Households including a child under the age of 15 living in the District for less than a year or living outside the District with no access to a garden.
- Households including a child under 5 living in the District for less than a year or living outside the District living in a flat or maisonette above ground floor.
- Applicants living in the District for less than a year or outside the District sharing accommodation with another household or needing one or more additional bedrooms.

Band 7

- All other applicants

*Where the permitted number, in accordance with the provisions of S. 326 of the Housing Act 1985 is exceeded, or the property is unfit, in a serious state of disrepair, of poor internal or external arrangement, or the property has been classified as having at least one Category 1 Housing Hazard under the Housing Act 2004 or is lacking one or more of the following; kitchen facilities, inside W.C., utility supplies.

**Medical priority to be determined by one of the Council's Medical Advisers or a company commissioned by the Council to provide medical advice on written evidence and taking into account all known facts relating to the application. Welfare and hardship grounds to be assessed on written evidence by the Housing Needs Manager, in consultation with one of the Council's Medical Advisers and one other member of the Housing Needs Section as appropriate. Welfare issues will encompass care and support needs and social needs, for instance, where a secure base is required for a care-leaver or any other vulnerable person to build a stable life or where a person needs to move to make a fresh start to recover from the effects of violence. Hardship may also include a need to move to give or receive care as well as for access to specialist medical treatment or to take up a particular offer of employment or training opportunity.

***Written medical evidence to be accepted by staff in the Housing Needs Section without referral to one of the Council's Medical Advisers. Welfare and hardship grounds to be assessed on written evidence by the Housing Needs Manager.

