Choice-based lettings

Most local authorities, in partnership with other social landlords, operate a choice-based lettings system for allocating both council and housing association homes in their area.

If you are interested in a rented property, it is essential that you register with the local authority in the area where you are applying for housing. After registering you will be given a priority status or level of housing need.

Local authorities and housing associations advertise their available properties – this varies between areas but can be through local newspapers, leaflets, newsletters, and on the internet – which registered applicants can then bid for if they are interested.

Bidding does not involve money, it just means that you are telling the local authority that you are interested in a particular property and want to be considered for it.