



For Immediate Release

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### **Improved Homebid is key to the door**

People on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's housing register will benefit from an improved and more accessible Homebid website from Wednesday 10 March.

The Choice Based Lettings bidding system for social rented homes has been re-launched with more user-friendly features and is now optimised for use on smart phones and tablets.

The council-run application process now gives a clear overview of the current Homebid bidding cycle and shows when the next one starts.

Applicants' accounts will also have increased security as they will be required to have a password in addition to a memorable date.

New applicants will set this as part of the application process and existing applicants will be asked to create a password the first time they log in after the upgrade has taken place. Anybody with a home application in progress will not be affected by the upgrade.

The popular bidding system was temporarily affected by the COVID-19 outbreak last year when Homebid was paused during the first lockdown but has now resumed and advertises available social housing properties every week. Last year almost 1,000 properties were advertised for let on the Choice Based Lettings system.

Anybody on the council's housing register wishing to be re-housed can 'bid' for one property per cycle on the Homebid website, by telephone or by text message. Applicants are then shortlisted based on their housing need band and waiting time. The applicant with the highest need band and longest waiting time will be offered the nominated for property.

The advantage of using Basingstoke's Homebid is that customers have more choice over the homes and areas they want to live in.

Cabinet Member for Homes and Families Cllr Tristan Robinson said: "Enabling people on the housing register to access the homes they need is a key priority for the council and the improvements we have made to the Homebid website will make the process much easier and more secure.

"I'm delighted that we are continuing to improve the Choice Based Lettings system to help more residents move into a new home and access the system in ways that work for them."

For more information on Homebid and important information and frequently asked questions visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/homebid](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/homebid) People can also contact the council by email at [housing@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:housing@basingstoke.gov.uk) or calling 01256 844844.

**ENDS**

Any questions via email to [customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk) or by phone on 01256 844844.

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