

Issue 1

Durham Key Options

May 2008

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of County Durham's Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme newsletter which will keep you up to date with the project's progress from now until the scheme's implementation in 2009.

Who should read this?

You should read this if:



You are on a housing register (waiting list) at present



You are a council or housing association tenant seeking a move to a different property with your same landlord



You may need to seek a home in the future and would like to know more about how you will do this



You work for a housing provider in County Durham and are interested in finding out more, or joining the CBL partnership



You work for any organisation that deals with people seeking housing that you could share this information with

Choice Based Lettings

County Durham Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme Newsletter



This issue

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What is Choice Based Lettings?

Choice Based Lettings is a way of allocating housing through choice, giving you a greater say over where you live.

The Government has set a target for *all* Local Authorities to be operating Choice Based Lettings by 2010.

County Durham landlords are currently working in partnership towards joining together to provide one single scheme that advertises available properties across the whole of County Durham.

The aim is to make the process for finding a home much more simple, fair and easy to understand, and will only require one application form to be completed to enable you to note your interest in houses with many different landlords across County Durham.

You will be given the power to use your own initiative to decide which properties are suitable to your housing needs, and to apply for suitable available properties as they are publicly advertised on a regular basis.

This new scheme is not targeted to start until around April 2009, but we want to keep you informed well in advance and will keep you up to date with our developments throughout the project until the scheme 'goes live' in around 12 months time.

The District of Easington Council, via East Durham Homes, introduced a district-wide Choice Based Lettings scheme in April 2008, ahead of the wider County Durham scheme. The Countywide Durham Key Options scheme of the future will strengthen the partnership between its landlord members and make access to multiple housing registers (with various housing providers) a more simple and consistent process than currently exists.

Look out for Issue 2 for more information on the County Durham Choice Based Lettings Scheme!

**Durham
Key Options**



Summary update...

Durham Key Options – County Durham Sub Regional Partnership

Social landlords in County Durham have been working together in partnership for over two years to move towards a countywide Choice Based Lettings scheme.

Partners signed up to the scheme to date are:

City of Durham Council	Sedgefield Borough Council
Derwentside District Council	Teesdale District Council
Derwentside Homes	Wear Valley Council
District of Easington Council	Dale & Valley Homes.
East Durham Homes	

Project Manager

Following the successful bid for a Government Grant from the Regional Challenge Fund in December 2007, and the financial contributions of the existing partnership organisations, a Project Manager has been employed to co-ordinate the development of the County Durham 'Durham Key Options' scheme, and to support the partners in its implementation.

Project Plan

The partnership has developed a Project Plan which is now being worked through towards the successful shaping of the County Durham scheme and achieving the target to 'go live' around April 2009.

Who else is involved?

The partnership are working towards promoting the scheme to other housing providers including County Durham Housing Associations, private landlords and low cost home ownership schemes (part-rent part-buy) so that as many available properties as possible can be advertised through one simple and easy to understand process, which is easy to access for everyone seeking a home.

Other organisations such as support and care providers, social services, voluntary sector organisations (charities), residents panels and community groups etc. will also be consulted on their thoughts and ideas for the scheme as key partners.

We want your help too!

The project partnership are also wanting your help in deciding how YOU want the new scheme to look and how you think it should work, after all, the new streamlined scheme is all about you finding the right home for your needs, in the easiest and clearest and simplest way possible.

We will be continuing to share information on the project with you over coming months, and will be delivering a series of awareness raising events in an area near you over the course of the next 12 months to ensure that you are kept right up to date with the scheme's development.

Once the scheme has the finer details decided, based on your feedback, we will also be looking to you again for your final comments and ideas on what you think about the way that it will work.

We will listen to your opinions and ensure that they are taken on board in making final decisions on the County Durham Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings scheme – Durham Key Options, for example how you feel you would like to access the scheme, where you think the properties should be advertised etc.

Please watch out for the next issue of this newsletter, and feel free to contact us with any queries you may have.

We are looking forward to working with you in the near future!

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

This is the first issue in a series of newsletters to keep you informed on our progress in developing the County Durham Sub Regional CBL scheme – Durham Key Options.

If you have any comments or questions please contact us by:

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