

What next?

Simple, call the council on the number at the end of this leaflet and find out when you can see an officer. Only people who have seen a housing officer first will be able to take advantage of the scheme.

Searching for a property

Once accepted onto the scheme, the council will assist you in finding a suitable property to rent, however you must also look yourself to help speed up the service.

You will be told which local agents are currently working with the scheme, you should also look in local papers, shop windows and property portals such as Rightmove and Prime location. In addition if you are on the housing register please go to: www.westsussexhomefinder.co.uk Where you will many properties advertised that will accept the 'Homefinder' scheme.

Please note that this is a discretionary part of our service. Not everyone will qualify and those that do, may not be accepted if deemed unsuitable.

For more information please contact the Housing Team on:

Telephone:
01243 534 734

Email:
housingteam@chichester.gov.uk

To search for properties go to:
www.westsussexhomefinder.co.uk

In person at:
Chichester District Council
East Pallant House
1 East Pallant, Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1TY



Homefinder Scheme for Tenants

Chichester District Council's 'Homefinder' Scheme

The 'Homefinder' scheme is an improved version of our rent in advance and deposit (formally called PSHAS). It is designed to help those in housing need access accommodation in the private sector.

Deposit Guarantee

The scheme provides a deposit guarantee equal to the value of 6 weeks rent. This guarantee covers damages to the property at the end of the tenancy it does not cover unpaid rent.

Rent in Advance

The 'Homefinder' scheme will pay one months rent directly to the landlord/agent at the commencement of the tenancy. This money is a 0% interest loan to the tenant, repayable by the tenant at £5 per week.



Advice and Support

Your housing officer will advise and assist you throughout the process. The scheme not only provides you with financial assistance but support once the tenancy starts. You will receive regular visits from a dedicated officer over the course of the tenancy to ensure that the accommodation is sustained. The officer will also be able to assist in resolving any tenancy related issues that may arise

Are you Eligible?

Unfortunately not everyone will be eligible for the Homefinder Scheme. To establish if you are eligible you will need to see a housing officer at the council. The housing officer will go through all of your options with you and assess your eligibility for the scheme.

You are likely to be eligible if:

- You are eligible to access public funds.
- You are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- You have a local connection to the Chichester District.
- You can demonstrate that you can afford to privately rent.
- You can demonstrate that you have the ability to manage a tenancy.

It must be stressed that these three criteria are only a guideline. For example if you meet the criteria but are not able to live independently you may be refused. Furthermore, the scheme is running on a limited budget and so we may be unable to help in some cases. The Council will however consider every application for financial assistance.

Suitability of Properties

All properties in the private sector within the district of Chichester will need to be inspected by a member of the Housing Investments Team to ensure they are suitable and most importantly safe, **BEFORE** you move in.

The rents must also fall within the Local Housing Allowance rates for the district. The current rates can be found at: <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8163>

