

HOUSING

You may have thought it is very hard to get a Council House, but in reality EDDC is housing people faster than ever before. Not long ago a housing applicant in East Devon would have had to wait 3-4 years to be housed by the Council or another Social Housing Provider. Many of the households on the waiting list who are considered in greatest housing need are now housed within 6-12 months.

WHY?

Well, it is mainly down to having more new housing being built by Developers in East Devon. A proportion of all large developments must be affordable housing – shared ownership or rent. Last year there were an additional 300 properties available and the same number of new affordable homes can be expected each year for the next 3-4 years.

Work over the last few years with homeless households means there is less demand from those in greatest housing need. It is still necessary to let homes, so EDDC is looking more at offering homes to applicants in the lower priority bands. This means that many applicants registered for housing with Devon Home Choice in Bands C and D, who thought they had no chance of being housed, now have a better chance.

Large housing developments in East Devon are providing more opportunities for households registered on Devon Home Choice who have an East Devon connection to get a new home. There are around 260 of EDDC homes available for letting each year – family homes, homes for single people and sheltered housing for those with a support need.

Many people may think they cannot be helped and they won't contact the Council. But for now and the coming years it may be able to help more people who need housing in East Devon.

Residents who are not registered for housing on Devon Home Choice can complete an online application and get themselves registered which will allow them to start bidding for available properties. This can be done by visiting the Devon Home Choice website at www.devonhomechoice.com. If it is not possible to get online and complete the form, call EDDC 01395 517469 and ask for help to complete the form – members of staff will even come out to your home and give help if needed.

Dennis Boobier, Housing Needs and Strategy Manager, East Devon District Council