

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE  
INFORMATION SHEET (NO.4)  
20 JULY 2016**

**GLOSHOMESEEKER TO HOMESSEEKERPLUS**

**New Applicants:**

- GlosHomeseeKer is the countywide choice based lettings system for allocating social/affordable (council and housing association) housing. The GlosHomeseeKer partnership was formed in 2009 from the six housing authorities in Gloucestershire to provide cost savings and give a wider choice to applicants.
- GlosHomeseeKer is changing. The contract with the current provider ends in September so the countywide partnership had to tender for a replacement.
- The new system chosen (provided by Locata), is more user-friendly for both customers and the Local Authorities, and is cheaper than the current system
- West Oxfordshire Council are joining the partnership so the name is also changing from GlosHomeseeKer to HomeseeKerPlus.
- All of the data (applications) on GlosHomeseeKer has to be transferred to HomeseeKerPlus and the new system rigorously tested to ensure it is working correctly.
- While the testing is being carried out, no new applications can be registered.
- This means that no-one will be able to apply for housing until 7<sup>th</sup> September when the new system goes “live”.
- This is the same for everyone – no-one will be able to register until then.
- There is a long waiting list for social/affordable properties so the extra few weeks before anyone can register will make very little difference, which means no-one will be disadvantaged.

**Current Applicants:**

- GlosHomeseeKer will continue as usual for current applicants.
- Landlords, including our Tenant Services, will be able to advertise their properties and applicants will be able to bid for them
- There will be two weeks from 24<sup>th</sup> August until 7<sup>th</sup> September, when no properties will be advertised.
- The next bidding cycle will start on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

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- There is no change to the current policy. For current applicants (those already registered) this means that banding, band start date and priority will not change.

**The Housing Advice Team will continue to carry out the council's statutory duties under homeless legislation throughout the changeover period.**

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