

**You only need these notes if you are claiming the Community Contribution award - Section 2 of the form**

## Application for extra rehousing priority

# Community contribution notes

### Note A

## Community contribution test

Manchester is divided into around 70 'rehousing areas'. You could get extra rehousing priority if you pass a 'community contribution' test in one of these areas.

To pass the community contribution test you, or anyone in your moving group, must:

- have lived in that rehousing area as an adult (18 and over) for three years continuously – now or in the past; **or**
- do voluntary work for a not-for-profit organisation or charity in the rehousing area. They must do this for at least ten hours a month, and have been doing it continuously for at least six months.

You will need to check the boundaries of the rehousing area where you think you may pass the community contribution test. We'll tell you how to see a map that will make things clearer.

## Note B

### Rehousing area clusters

If you pass the community contribution test in a particular rehousing area, you could go into a higher rehousing band for some homes in that area **and** for some homes in surrounding areas. We call this wider area a '**rehousing area cluster**'.

This would give you a better chance of getting a home in that cluster. **But** it means you would not be able to go for any property outside this area that is rented out through Manchester City Council rules – that's at least 50 per cent in some areas, and up to 100 per cent in others.

This is because some landlords (like Northwards Housing) rent out **all** their homes using Manchester City Council rules, while others use these rules for only half their homes.

Because your choices will be restricted outside the rehousing area cluster, you need to decide how much you want that area compared to anywhere else.

Don't worry if there are parts of the cluster you do **not** want. You don't have to go for homes there if you don't want to.

*Before you decide whether or not to go for the higher band, see Note C  
Community contribution maps*

## Community contribution maps

You now need to look at a map that shows:

- the borders of the rehousing area where you think you may pass the community contribution test; and
- the border of the wider rehousing cluster.

### **Here's how to see the map**

**1. Identify the postcode of the address that could give your moving group the community contribution (which may be different to your current postcode):**

- If someone in your moving group has lived in a rehousing area as an adult for at least three years continuously, now or in the past, it's the postcode of their last address in that area. (This is not necessarily the address they live now)
- If someone in your moving group does voluntary work in a rehousing area, it's the postcode of the place they do this work

If you could pass the community contribution test in more than one area, decide which area to go for; you can only claim a higher rehousing band in one area.

**2. Go to: [www.manchesterhomefinder.org/info/higherpriority](http://www.manchesterhomefinder.org/info/higherpriority)** and follow the link "Community contribution: rehousing area cluster"

Enter the postcode to see a map of the relevant rehousing area and rehousing area cluster.

### **This the fastest and easiest way to get the map.**

If you can't use the internet, phone 0333 900 9032 for advice about getting the map.

### Claiming extra rehousing priority

Now decide if you want to claim the extra priority or not. It's difficult to give specific advice about this because it depends on your individual circumstances (like how long you have been waiting and on the demand for homes in the area you want). But generally:

- **If you want to live in that particular rehousing area cluster, and nowhere else:**

*It makes sense to claim the extra priority – because the reduced choice in the rest of the city is irrelevant to you.*

- **If you are prepared to move to another area outside that rehousing area cluster:**

*You could decide not to claim the extra priority – because you would prefer to keep more choice in more areas.*

If you decide not to go for the extra priority, you can change your mind and go for it later.

If you get the extra priority you can change your mind later and come out of that higher band - but you would not be able to claim it again for six months from then.

### If you will qualify soon

What happens if you don't qualify for extra rehousing priority now, but may do soon? For example you may have lived in a rehousing area continuously for two-and-half years. In this situation, you can claim in six months time (when you will have been living there the necessary three years).