

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: Sevenoaks District Council Housing Allocation Policy Amendments

Details of Decision taken

- 1. To add a Band E for people with no housing need or connection to the Sevenoaks District.**
- 2. To amend bedroom size requirements to provide choice for register applicants by allowing households aged 55+ to bid for sheltered/emerald housing or other specifically designated accommodation that has one more bedroom than they need (1 person in a 2 bedroom property).**
- 3. To allow applicants aged 55+ who have an adult child (over 18) in their household to be accepted onto the register to bid for sheltered/emerald housing or other specifically designated accommodation that is covered by a planning agreement whether they have a local connection or not.**
- 4. To allow applicants aged 55+ who have an adult child (over 18) in their household to apply to the housing register for vacancies that are covered by a planning agreement only to have an income up to the current Low Cost Home Ownership limit (currently £60,000).**
- 5. To bring down the number of weeks at which the register will recognise an unborn child as part of a register applicant's household from 28 weeks to 26 weeks.**
- 6. To amend the text to set out more clearly the review process for homeless households who wish to refuse an offer of accommodation made to them in discharge of any homelessness duty owed.**
- 7. To amend the text to allow provision for a senior manager at West Kent Housing Association to make a review decision at stage 1 of the register review process.**

Reason for Decision

To agree the above 7 extra criteria so that the Sevenoaks District Housing Register Allocation policy correctly reflects local needs and embraces local lettings policies and provides a fair review process.

All Documents considered:

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

Decision Number: 36 (2014/15)

Revised Allocations Policy.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None

Financial implications this can be deleted if the decision has been taken on a report format and the heading already filled in

None

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement this can be deleted if the decision has been taken on a report format and the heading already filled in

None

Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty) this can be deleted if the decision has been taken on a report format and the heading already filled in

Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	Yes / No YES	Provide a full explanation of the potential impact (for all decision options being presented) on those people within the community who might share any of the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ethnicity- Disability- Sex- Age- Religion / Belief- Sexual Orientation- Pregnancy & Maternity- Marital or Civil Partnership status- Gender reassignment You must also provide details of any evidence you have to demonstrate the potential impact.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes / No YES	<u>Applicants aged 55+</u> The Localism Act 2011 enables Housing Authorities to determine the groups of people under the Housing Register. Older people under occupying larger homes

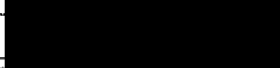
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Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
		<p>have been identified as needing more opportunities to move home to enable better use of the stock in the District. Enabling households to move into specifically designated accommodation from age 55 enables them to plan their future better while they still enjoy reasonable health, this avoids crisis management of health issues in the future, saving money for the wider public purse.</p> <p><u>Pregnant applicants</u></p> <p>Pregnant ladies are issued with a form from their Midwife of GP which is accepted by HMRC and employers as evidence of their pregnancy. It would be beneficial for the Housing Register to be in line with this as pregnant women are a priority group for rehousing under housing legislation.</p>
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		<p>Include steps that could be taken for all decision options being presented.</p> <p>Legislation exists which allows Housing Authorities to make decisions which</p>
Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted Pat Smith Chief Housing Officer		
Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker None b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict None		

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(For Democratic Services use)

Decision Number: 36 (2014/15)

Decision taken by:	Clr Michelle Lowe
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of formal Decision	3rd November 2014
Verbal decision made	22nd April 2014
Record made by:	George Lewis
Date of record:	10 November 2014

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