

Appendix 1

Sevenoaks District Housing Register Allocations Scheme

Local Connection Criteria

You will not be able to join the Housing Register if you do not have a local connection with the Sevenoaks District. A local connection under this scheme means:

- currently living in the District and have been resident for a continuous period of three years at the point of application. This does not include households placed in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation or Children Act 1989
- currently employed in the District, who's place of work is within the District and have been working within the District continuously for the last three years at the point of application
- are self-employed, where the majority of their work is within the District, and has been the case continuously for the last three years at the point of application
- if we have accepted the main housing duty under the homelessness legislation (s193 Housing Act 1996)
- a serving member of the Regular Armed Forces or a former member within five years of discharge (or a bereaved or separated spouse or civil partner of such a member)
- a serving or former member of the Reserve Armed Forces within five years of discharge who needs to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service

In exceptional circumstances, applicants will not need to demonstrate a local connection. This can include (but is not limited to) applicants who:

- have had a break in the period of continuous residence or employment due to circumstances beyond their control. For example, a temporary move to escape violence or threats of violence, or a temporary change to their usual place of work;
- are currently residing outside Sevenoaks District but need to move into the District to provide or receive significant and ongoing care or support to, or from, a close family member (i.e. children, parents or siblings, only). A care giver/receiver must currently live a minimum one hour's journey time away either by car or, if they do not have access to private transport, the shortest timetabled public transport route
- need to move to receive significant and ongoing care or support from regulated providers
- are at risk of violence or harassment (including domestic abuse or hate crime) and that risk would be substantially reduced by a move to a permanent home in the District

- are Sevenoaks residents temporarily displaced because they are currently residing in a supported housing or rehabilitation scheme outside the district
- are aged 55 years or over and have been assessed as suitable for housing within one of the district's designated older persons' housing schemes
- applicants who are unable to demonstrate a local connection because they are travellers who have been pursuing a nomadic lifestyle in accordance with their cultural tradition
- Different local connection criteria will apply to new social housing provided on Rural Exceptions Housing schemes and other schemes in rural parishes where local needs nomination arrangements have been approved by the District Council. Here priority will be given to applicants with a local connection to the host Parish. Full criteria is set out in the legal agreement applying to each scheme. Details of these schemes and the local connection criteria applying, can be obtained from the Housing Policy team.