

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT HOUSING REGISTER ALLOCATIONS SCHEME 2022-2027

Supplementary paper for Cabinet - 7 July 2022

Additional information is presented for consideration by Cabinet, as follows:

1. The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) and Persons Subject to Immigration Control (Housing Authority Accommodation and Homelessness) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022, comes into force on 22 June 2022. In light of this, Section 5 - *Ineligible due to immigration status*, of the draft Housing Register Allocations Scheme 2022 - 2027 ("the draft"), needs to be updated. The following wording is proposed:

Certain persons in the UK who have limited leave to remain are exempt from the residential criteria and local connection set out in this Scheme if they are deemed to be a Ukraine Refugee, as set out in the updated Regulations which took effect from 22nd June 2022.

2. In Section 7 - *Assessment of need - the banding system* and Section 16 - *Property Condition*, of the draft, the points of clarification in relation to Category 1 hazards have now been determined. The wording as shown in the draft, is considered suitable.
3. In light of comments provided at Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 6 June, the additional category of applicant proposed for Band D (low priority), is suggested to be revised to:

Single, concealed households (including young people who live in the family home), who also meet the definition of Local Essential Worker.

Explanatory note: On selected new build housing schemes, a small number of homes (to be agreed on a scheme by scheme basis by the Chief Officer People & Places), may be put forward for allocation to this category of applicant under the terms of a Local Lettings Plan (subject to approval by the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health). This position will ensure applicants in housing need from the higher Bands will continue to have priority to the vast majority of homes that become available for letting. However, we recognise the needs of Local Essential Workers and the important work they do in the local economy. We wish to help where we can and this is particularly the case with young people who have lived in the District for many years, but who now want to move to their first independent home. The above will enable us to help Local Essential Workers in a small but careful way, whilst ensuring we manage the expectations of this category of applicant.

20 June 2022