

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

Summary of decision to be made:	Adoption of the Housing Allocations Policy 2024-2027		
Lead Officer (job title):	Alison Simmons, Head of Housing		
Date the final decision is due to be made:	25/07/2024	Date this assessment commenced:	07/03/2024
Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to:			
Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation	Yes/ No		
Advance equality of opportunity	Yes / No		
Foster good relations	Yes / No		
Background			
<p>The Sevenoaks District Housing Allocations Scheme 2022 – 2027 (Approved in July 2022) determines eligibility for, and the allocation of, social housing within the District. Social housing is owned by Registered Provider partners as well as other Providers, including Quercus Housing. The Scheme provides greater opportunity to join the Sevenoaks District Housing Register for people with a genuine local connection and an identified housing need, including those in reasonable preference groups and with protected characteristics. The Scheme ensures priority is given to those in the greatest housing need, except where homes are delivered on Rural Exceptions Sites or where a Local Lettings Plan has been approved through Portfolio Holder decision.</p> <p>Reviewing and making changes to the adopted Policy requires a period of consultation. The recommendations within this review have all been subject to a comprehensive consultation exercise. A revised Housing Allocations Policy 2024-2027 has been amended considering feedback received from the recent consultation.</p> <p>Periodic reviews of the Housing Allocations Policy are allowed for, whereby minor amendments (which do not represent a major change of Scheme), may be made. This is delegated to the Chief Officer (People and Places) and Head of Housing in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health. Through this mechanism, it is intended the Housing Allocations Policy 2024-2027, subject to approval by Full Council on 25 July 2024, will retain its relevance and robustness throughout its remaining 3 year lifespan.</p>			
Relevance to the Public Sector Equality Duty			
<p>As a Local Housing Authority, the Council has a statutory duty to publish a Housing Allocations Policy for assessing and prioritising applications for social housing to determine who can join the housing register and the criteria to determine the priority banding of each application. The proposed changes ensure that the Housing Allocations Policy works to make the most effective use of the social housing that becomes available. This is important because the supply of homes is limited but the demand for social housing is very high, and the district can therefore only meet a small amount of the demand each year. The Housing Allocations Policy applies to all applicants wishing to join the Housing Register, ensuring transparency and consistency of approach, thereby advancing equality of opportunity.</p>			

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For each of the following characteristics:	Summarise available data, statistics or consultation findings.	State how the proposal will impact on people.	What action will be taken to reduce or mitigate any potential negative impacts	
Disability	No change sought	Not applicable		
Carers	No change sought	Not applicable		
Race	No change sought	Not applicable		
Sex	No change sought	Not applicable		
Age (also consider dementia)	Increased savings and assets allowance recommended for the over 55's who are accessing designated older persons' accommodation	It will assist a wider pool of older people to access designated older persons' accommodation which is more suitable for their housing needs	Older people may qualify to join the housing register and bid for designated older persons' accommodation across all 4 priority Bands Irrespective of an applicant's savings (up to the allowance ceiling) vacant social housing will be allocated to those in the highest housing need (Band) unless a Local Lettings Plan has been approved	
Religion / Belief	No change sought	Not applicable		
Sexual Orientation	No change sought	Not applicable		
Pregnancy / Maternity	No change sought	Not applicable		
Marital or Civil Partnership Status	No change sought	Not applicable		
Gender reassignment	No change sought	Not applicable		
Armed Forces Community	No change sought	Not applicable		
Please tick the outcome of this assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> No impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue the policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy
How will you summarise the impacts in the committee report:	Set out in Section 6 - Outcome of consultation.			
When will you review this assessment:	02/08/2027			

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