

Appendix 2

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL Housing Allocation Scheme Review

Proposed amendments for consultation with housing providers and other partner organisations

Subject to consultation and Member approval, we are proposing to introduce a revised Housing Allocation Scheme to cover Council nominations to affordable housing providers from as soon as operationally possible after 26th June 2019. The proposed amendments, some of which will significantly affect a large number of existing housing applicants, are set out below. The proposed new scheme is attached and the changes are highlighted in yellow.

Please send comments to Samantha.Horne@midsussex.gov.uk by 8th April 2019

Proposed amendment	No of applicants affected	Reason for change/aim of proposal
1. In future, Clarion tenants living in Mid Sussex, will be eligible to join the Council's Housing Register.	441 Clarion tenants currently registered on Clarion's HomeChoice register within Mid Sussex.	To ensure that fair access to all social housing in Mid Sussex is maintained for all those who are in housing need.
2. Bids from homeless applicants where the Council has a duty to ensure they have accommodation available to them under s.193 of the Housing Act 1996, (subject to some exceptions) will be given priority over bids from other Applicants in their Band.	Currently around 45 a year	This will provide such applicants with more opportunity to make a successful bid and to enable them to move on from temporary accommodation more quickly which will allow the Council to make more effective use of temporary accommodation.

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<p>3. Homeless applicants owed the main housing duty by MSDC under s.193 of the Housing Act 1996, will no longer be entitled to 12 weeks free bidding. They will be required to accept the first suitable offer.</p>	<p>Currently around 45 a year</p>	<p>Currently such applicants are allowed to refuse offers made as a result of successful bids in the first 12 weeks from the main housing duty being accepted under s.193 of the Housing Act. This is the case, even if the offer is suitable. This does not support the Council's duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act which provides that the s.193 duty comes to an end where a suitable offer is refused. In addition, this change will increase the opportunity of such applicants moving out of temporary accommodation as soon as possible.</p>
<p>4. It is proposed to add a time limit of 5 years for disqualification from joining the housing register for giving false information or withholding relevant information.</p>	<p>4 in 2018 1 in 2017</p>	<p>Currently the time limit for disqualification is unspecified. It is proposed to add a time limit of 5 years in order to provide clarity.</p>
<p>5. Extra Care Housing Schemes vacancies are currently allocated by a Multi Agency Panel. A new approach is to be piloted. This will allow direct lettings via a process where an Extra Care Co-Ordinator employed by WSCC will enable the Allocation of Extra Care vacancies in partnership with the Extra Care Housing providers to best meet the housing and care needs of frail older people.</p>	<p>Approximately 16 a year</p>	<p>The Extra Care Panel does not support timely and efficient allocations. The model to be piloted operates successfully in the south of the county and meets the needs of frail older people in housing need more effectively and efficiently.</p>
<p>6. Allow in exceptional cases, with the agreement of the housing association and the Council's Housing Needs Team Manager, some homes to be allocated through Direct Allocation</p>	<p>Approximately 2 – 3 a year</p>	<p>This will allow those who are in exceptional housing need and require a particular type of property which rarely becomes available to be made a direct allocation. For example, a homeless applicant in unsuitable temporary accommodation provided by the Council who needs adapted accommodation.</p>

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