

Harborough District Council Allocations Policy Review - Applicant Survey

Appendix D

Q1. Do you agree that normally only people who have a defined 'local connection' to one or more of the authorities in the Leicestershire Choice scheme should be allowed to register. This is to ensure that local homes go to local people.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	84.5%	93
No	15.5%	17
	answered question	110
	skipped question	2

Q2. There are six rules for deciding whether an application has a local connection to Harborough District. Applicants have to satisfy one or more of these to qualify for the housing register. We are proposing that one of the rules should be changed to read 'Currently resides on a permanent basis in the district and has lived in the district for at least the last six months'. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	73.2%	82
No	19.6%	22
No opinion	7.1%	8
	answered question	112
	skipped question	0

Q3. We want to be more specific about who we consider will not be eligible to join the housing register (unless there are exceptional circumstances). We are proposing to exclude the following applicants from the housing register if they :

- Do not have a local connection to at least one of the authorities in the Leicestershire Choice scheme or;
- Have the financial means to address their own housing (except those who can show a need for supported, sheltered, or extra care housing which they cannot buy/rent in the private sector)or;
- Are considered to be unsuitable to be tenants (examples would include those who have been convicted of violence, those who owe a housing related debt greater than £300, those who have obtained a tenancy by deception or sublet without Landlord's permission, or those who lack mental capacity to enter into a tenancy agreement, those who have committed criminal offences in or near the home or pose a threat to neighbours, the community, staff from the Council/contractors or Registered Providers/contractors or;
- Have an Introductory or ;

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	83.8%	93
No	9.9%	11
Other comment (please specify)	8.1%	9
	answered question	111
	skipped question	1

Q4. Tied tenants, Social Tenants and Private Tenants (who have assured or secure tenancies and are adequately housed) will be placed in the Low housing Need band if they have no medical/welfare or exceptional housing need to move. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.4%	62
No	43.6%	48
	answered question	110
	skipped question	2

Q5. We propose to include applicants in Medium housing need band who have permanent employment within the Leicestershire scheme area and they need to move closer to work to prevent financial hardship. We also propose including in this band, home seekers who are suffering financial hardship and have difficulty in meeting their housing costs. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	89.9%	98
No	10.1%	11
	answered question	109
	skipped question	3

Q6. We propose including Transfer applicants who are assessed as under-occupying their home by one or more bedrooms, in the High housing need band, so that they can move into a property with fewer bedrooms, quickly, in order to minimise rent arrears and financial hardship. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	89.2%	99
No	10.8%	12
	answered question	111
	skipped question	1

Q7. We propose reducing the time an applicant is in High housing need band to 16 weeks (currently 24 weeks) in order to focus the applicant on bidding for suitable properties at the earliest opportunity. If no suitable properties have become available to bid on during this period the housing need band can be re-assessed and if appropriate, extended at the discretion of the Housing Manager. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	70.5%	79
No	16.1%	18
No opinion	13.4%	15
	answered question	112
	skipped question	0

Q8. When the Council has a legal duty to assist with housing, the applicants' housing application is placed in Priority band because they have an emergency need to move. Homeless applicants are able to exercise choice and make bids each fortnight during a 12 week period (following which their housing need is re-assessed if they have not been successfully re-housed). We propose that the Council (with whom the applicant is registered) can reserve the right to place bids for those applicants on suitable properties which would meet their needs, where they have failed to bid in any advert cycle. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.6%	66
No	20.2%	22
No opinion	19.3%	21
	answered question	109
	skipped question	3

Q9. We want to give applicants choice but also need to fulfill our legal obligations. We therefore propose that applicants will be able to bid for properties but if they fail to bid in any advert cycle, the Council reserves the right to bid for them. The Council will, also discharge it's legal duty to rehouse homeless households by making one suitable offer of accommodation in the last advert week of the Priority period, to ensure that household has an offer of accommodation. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.0%	60
No	28.4%	31
No Opinion	16.5%	18
	answered question	109
	skipped question	3

Q10. Social housing is in high demand and it is therefore important to ensure that best use is made of the housing stock. We therefore propose to mirror the bedroom standards set out by the new Housing Benefit rules as follows: A separate bedroom is normally needed for: Every adult couple or single parent Person aged 16 years or more Two adolescents aged 10-15 years of the same sex Two children aged under 10 years regardless of sex Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
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Yes	81.8%	90
No	10.9%	12
Other comment (please specify)	12.7%	14
	answered question	110
	skipped question	2

Q11. We propose that applicants have placed bids and do not respond (when contacted) to three offers of accommodation, or fail to attend three arranged viewings (without good reason), or refuse three offers of suitable accommodation, they will be suspended from the register for up to six months. Applicants will still have choice of the property they bid for but must give serious consideration to the suitability of the property before they bid. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.0%	88
No	15.5%	17
No opinion	4.5%	5
	answered question	110
	skipped question	2

Q12. We propose to reduce the number of bids an applicant can make in each advert cycle (currently three) to two. In many cases this will not adversely affect your opportunity to be re-housed as there are not always three suitable properties in each advert cycle for applicants to bid on. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	67.9%	74
No	29.4%	32
Other (please specify)	3.7%	4
	answered question	109
	skipped question	3

Q13. If you are happy for us to contact you regarding this survey please insert your name and contact details below:

Answer Options	Response Count
	60
answered question	60
skipped question	52