

Appendix 2: Allocations Scheme: Proposed Key Revisions

Area	Current criteria	Proposed revision	Key Impacts
Increasing the residency criteria	The current residency criteria mirrors the statutory homeless definition: 6 out of the last 12 months or 3 out of the last 5 years.	To increase the residency criteria for inclusion on the housing register to 5 years. NB: the legislation requires specific rules for members of the armed forces. Flexibility will be included to ensure statutory duties are still met in terms of homelessness, care leavers, and social care clients as required.	Managing expectations. Dis-incentivise homeless approaches in favour of homeless prevention and alternative housing options
Reducing the level income and savings above which households would not normally qualify for inclusion on the housing register.	Maximum of £60K per annum in household income to be reduced to a maximum of £30K per household in respect of savings and capital in line with the shared ownership eligibility.	Lower the threshold for income and savings at which point households would no longer qualify for inclusion. Currently comparing against other schemes and shared ownership criteria.	Further prioritisation of highest need and promotion of alternative options to reduce numbers on the housing register.
Under-occupation – making best use of stock to meet emerging statutory need	Housing association tenants under-occupying by two or more rooms, or moving into older persons accommodation are placed into the emergency band. Those under-occupying by 1 bedroom are placed into band 1.	All under-occupiers to be placed into band 1 as standard.	Allows for best use of stock to prioritise moves to free up accommodation most needed to meet statutory needs.
Number of bids	Applicants are able to turn down up to two offers but are expected to accept the third offer, if not then any statutory duty will consider to be discharged	Based on a relaxation of the regulations around choice, to restrict bidding so that applicants can only reasonably refuse on property.	Improved through flow to accommodation and managing of expectations.
Direct offers	Currently used for 'non bidders' to discharge a homelessness duty, to facilitate a decant or where a very specific type of	Add emergency moves, transfers, financial loss to the council, welfare reform, and those in temporary accommodation for longer than average; one direct offer to end the duty. Can use private sector or social housing as	Improved through flow to accommodation and managing of expectations. Directly allows control to address highest cost placements or shortfalls.

	property is required.	appropriate.	
Shortlisting	Applicants can be shortlisted for multiple properties	Those shortlisted in position 1 will not be shortlisted for any other properties until the bid has been resolved.	Reducing timescales for rehousing and refusals
Members of the armed forces	Not subject to the local connection rules.	Addition (required by legislation): additional preference will be given to the category of persons outlined in the Housing Act 1996 (Additional Preference for Armed Forces) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/2989) if they fall within one or more of the statutory reasonable preference categories and are in urgent housing need. Change: Amendment to online form questions.	Recognising the Council's continuing commitment to members of the armed forces.