

Appendix1:

Allocation Scheme Summary of Changes 2015

Area of Scheme	Current Criteria	Proposed Revision and Impact
Members of the Armed Forces	Assessed as all general needs clients with no additional preference.	Statutory requirement to support Members of the armed forces to secure sustainable housing solutions: Additional preference given to the category of persons set out 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.
Local Connection	Currently resident and resident for 6 out of the last 12 months or 3 out of the last 5 years.	Currently resident and resident for a minimum of 5 years* ; Mirrors highest residency criteria applied in the South East sub-region. Disincentives homeless approaches in favour of homeless prevention and alternative housing solutions. <i>*Exceptions and flexibility to meet LBB statutory duties and comply with statutory regulations as required will be included.</i>
Immigration	Confirmed with the regulations in place at the point of publication.	Statutory requirement to set out qualifying applicants: Amend the criteria to reflect the changes brought about by the amendment to the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) Regulations 2006
Housing Association Under-Occupation	Tenants under occupying by 2 or more bedrooms in 4+ bed accommodation/moving into older persons accommodation are placed into the Emergency Band. Those in 2 or 3 bedroom accommodation are placed into Band 1.	All under-occupiers to be placed into Band 1 as standard with ability to escalate in exceptional circumstances. This will allow improved flexibility to make best use of available stock and prioritise moves to free up accommodation most required to meet statutory needs.
Older Persons Accommodation	Those aged 55 and over can be included on the Housing Register (where no other housing need exists) if they wish to move from general needs housing into older persons accommodation. However they are then able to bid for older persons and general needs accommodation.	Restrict bidding to older persons accommodation only: Applicants who are only included on the Housing Register as a result of requesting this type of accommodation cannot bid for general needs housing (unless by way of exception).
Number of Bids	Applicants are able to turn down up to two offers but are expected to accept the third.	Restrict bidding so that applicants can only reasonably refuse one property: Must accept second property. Assist in prioritising through flow to accommodation and managing expectations
Direct Offers	Currently used for non-bidders, to discharge a homeless duty, to facilitate a decant and where a very specific type of property is required by a household. Only social housing offered.	Increase direct offers including emergency moves, transfers, financial loss to the Council; one direct offer to end duty as opposed to multiple. Can use social or private sector accommodation if appropriate. Improved through flow and flexibility to best manage accommodation resources and in particular addressing highest cost placements.
Shortlisting	Applicants can be shortlisted for multiple properties.	Those shortlisted in position 1 will not be shortlisted for any other properties until that bid is resolved. Better managing expectations and minimising shortlisting timescales
Reasonable Preference	Homeless Applicants to whom a full duty is not owed must be given a level of reasonable preference within an allocations scheme. 'non-priority' need and intentionally homeless households are placed in Band 3.	Non priority homeless to remain in Band 3. Intentionally homeless applicants to be placed into Band 4 and sign posted to alternative housing options. Better manages expectations and prioritisation on the register to more accurately reflect the relative changes of nominations due to limited supply.