

## **Housing Allocations Policy Consultation**

Section 166(A) of the Housing Act 1996 requires that every local housing authority in England must have an allocation scheme for determining priorities (and the procedure to be followed) in allocating housing accommodation.

Bucks Home Choice is the scheme that is used to allocate affordable housing in four local housing authority areas – Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe.

There is an increasingly high demand for social housing and affordable properties to rent in the Bucks Home Choice District areas and this demand far outstrips the supply. Whilst we continue to work with housing providers to provide new affordable accommodation, we are not able to meet this demand.

As such we are currently reviewing our Allocations Policy and are proposing to make changes so that the policy;

- meets the District Councils' statutory requirements and ensures that priority for housing is given to those who have a recognised housing need
- reflects the current demand for accommodation in the Bucks Home Choice Partnership areas
- prioritises accommodation to the people that need it the most and makes the best use of the housing stock available
- better manages the expectations of the people on the Housing Register

We are now consulting on the proposed amendments and seeking your feedback on the new draft policy.

### **Aims of the policy are to:**

- be simple, fair, transparent and understandable, and have due regard to the prevailing circumstances of the area;
- help applicants make informed, realistic decisions about their future housing prospects, and to better manage their expectations;
- minimise applications from households with little to no realistic chance of successfully finding a home through the Housing Register;
- ensure that applicants who can afford to find their own housing independently are expected to do so;
- promote the effective use of the housing stock made available from registered providers;
- reduce the use of emergency and temporary accommodation for homeless applicants;
- promote homelessness prevention by prioritising applicants who remain in inadequate accommodation.

**Our policy documents can be viewed on our [Housing](#) web page;**

Current Bucks Home Choice Policy 2014

Proposed draft policy document

Key summary of changes

Survey questionnaire

### **Taking part in the consultation**

We would strongly encourage consultees to consider the key changes that we are proposing to make by first reading the above Summary of Changes document. If you would like to provide feedback on the new proposed Bucks Home Choice Allocations Policy please click [survey](#). Consultation opens at 9am on Tuesday 20th November 2018 and closes at 5.15pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. We will not consider any comments that we receive after this time.

### **Next Steps**

Once the consultation has closed we will consider the comments received before finalising and seeking approval for adoption in 2019.