

Housing Allocations Review 2016

Questionnaire

Background

Currently only households with a 'housing need' as defined by the Housing Allocations Policy can apply for social housing in the area. Examples of a 'housing need' include:

- Needing to move to suitable accommodation because of health reasons
- Needing to move for work purposes
- Needing to move because of overcrowding in a customer's existing home

(Note: This doesn't apply to people aged 55 years and over who can apply for sheltered housing even if they do not currently have a housing need defined by the policy.)

A comprehensive list of 'housing need' as defined by the Housing Allocations Policy can be found on pages 15 and 16 of the policy document. This can be found on the consultation web-page or by paper on request - see contact details on next page.

What we are consulting on

The Council and its partners (Plus Dane Housing, Sanctuary Housing and Weaver Vale Housing Trust) are considering allowing all households the right to go on the Housing List for social housing because there is a limited demand for some property types in the area. If the waiting list is open to all, a system of prioritisation will still be applied and people with no priority or no 'housing need' will only be considered if no-one with a housing need has expressed an interest in a property advertised

We want to know that you think about our ideas for broadening the criteria for housing allocations.

What my views will be used for

Your feedback will be used to help inform possible future changes to the criteria for the Housing Allocations Policy.



Cheshire West
and Chester

How I share my views

This consultation runs for 12 weeks and closes on 15 May 2016.

There are a range of ways to express your views:

- Complete this survey
- Email: housingstrategy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Telephone on 0151 356 6410 and ask to speak to the Housing Strategy Team
- Write to us at:
Housing Strategy, Cheshire West and Chester Council, 4 Civic Way,
Ellesmere Port. CH65 0BE

Helpful hints for completing this questionnaire

- Please use a black or blue pen
- In most cases you will only have to cross (X) one box but please read the questions carefully as sometimes you may need to cross (X) more than one box
- Answer the next question unless asked otherwise
- If there are any questions that you do not wish to answer, please feel free to leave them blank

Completing the questionnaire is voluntary and all the information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. No information will be released that could identify an individual or organisation.

Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 123 8 123

Textphone: 18001 01606 867670

Views about the Housing Allocations Policy

Q1a. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Housing List should be opened up to allow people with no housing need to apply for social housing? (Please note that customers with no housing need would only be considered if no-one with a housing need has expressed an interest in the property advertised.)

Please cross (X) one box only.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Q1b. Please tell us the reasons for your answer in the box below:

Q2a. Do you think people with no local connection to the area should be allowed to apply for housing in the area?

(A definition of 'local connection' can be found on page 11 of the Housing Allocations Policy. In general this covers residency in the area and connections to the area because of family or employment in the area.)

Please cross (X) one box only.

<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂ No	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Don't know
---	--	--



Q2b. If you answered yes to the above question, do you think that people with no connection to the area should receive the same priority for housing as local people if their circumstances are broadly similar?

Please cross (X) one box only.


<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂ No	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Don't know
---	--	--

Q3a. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“Families with young children (under the age of 10 years) in upper floor flats and maisonettes should gain automatic priority for a move to a house after being resident in an upper floor flat or maisonette for 2 years.”

Please cross (X) one box only.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆



Q3b. If you answered strongly agree / agree to the above question, what degree of priority should be awarded?

(You can see the priority currently given to other types of housing need on pages 15 and 16 of the Housing Allocations Policy).

Please cross (X) one box only.

Band A (highest priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁
Band B (medium priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Band C (lowest priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃

Q4a. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“Homeless households to whom the Council has a legal duty to assist with finding accommodation, should be permitted up to two offers of accommodation and should not have to take the first property offered to them, as this will give these households an element of choice.”

Please cross (X) one box only.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Q4b. Please tell us the reasons for your answer

Q5. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make about the Housing Allocations Policy for Cheshire West?
Please write in the box below.

About you - all questions are voluntary and treated in the strictest confidence

The answers you give in this section will only be used to ensure that we obtain responses from a broad range of areas and types of people. Please feel free to leave blank any questions that you do not wish to answer, we will use the comments you have given us so far. No information will be released that would allow identification of you as an individual or of your household.

Q6a. Which of the following best describes you?
Please cross (X) all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ A local resident | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ A local business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ An employee of Cheshire West and Chester Council | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ An employee of a housing provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ I am currently on the housing waiting list | <input type="checkbox"/> ₆ An elected Member of Cheshire West and Chester Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₇ An elected town or parish councillor in Cheshire West and Chester | <input type="checkbox"/> ₈ Member of a voluntary or community organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₉ Other (please specify in the box below) | |

Q6b. If you are responding on behalf of a group, organisation or club please state the name and postcode in the box below (you do not need to complete the rest of the 'About you' section).
Please write in the box below.

Q7. Please tell us your postcode; this is so that we can be sure we have obtained a range of views from across the borough.

Please write in the box below.

Postcode:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Q8a. Are you...?

Please cross (X) one box only.

₁ Male ₂ Female ₃ Prefer not to say

Q8b. Is this the gender you were born into?

Please cross (X) one box only

₁ Yes ₂ No ₃ Prefer not to say

Q9. Which age group do you belong to?

Please cross (X) one box only.

₂ 16 to 24 ₃ 25 to 34
₄ 35 to 44 ₅ 45 to 54
₆ 55 to 64 ₇ 65 to 74
₈ 75 and over ₉ Prefer not to say

Q10a. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

This includes problems related to old age. Please cross (X) one box only.

₁ Yes ₂ No ₃ Prefer not to say

Q10b. If you answered yes to the question above, which of the following best describes your disability or illness?

Please cross (X) all that apply

- ₁ Physical impairment that causes mobility issues (for example wheelchair users)
- ₂ Visual impairment ₃ Hearing impairment
- ₄ Learning disability or difficulty ₅ Mental health issue
- ₆ Long standing illness or health condition
- ₇ Other (please specify in the box below)

--

Q11a. Do you have a caring responsibility?

Please cross (X) one box only

- ₁ Yes ₂ No ₃ Prefer not to say

Q11b. If you answered yes to the question above, which of the following best describes your caring responsibility

Please cross (X) all that apply

- ₁ A child/ children aged under 18 ₂ A disabled child/ children
- ₃ A disabled adult (aged 18 or over) ₄ A person aged 55 or more
- ₅ Other (please specify in the box below)

Q12. Which of the following best describes your religious belief/ faith?

Please cross (X) one box only.

- ₁ Buddhist ₂ Christian ₃ Hindu ₄ Jewish
- ₅ Muslim ₆ Sikh ₇ None ₈ Prefer not to say
- ₉ Other, please specify

Q13. Which of the following terms best describes your sexual orientation?

Please cross (X) one box only.

- ₁ Heterosexual (straight) ₂ Bisexual
- ₃ Gay/Lesbian ₄ Prefer not to say
- ₅ Other, please specify

Q14. Which of the following terms best describes your ethnic origin?

Please cross (X) one box only.

White

English/Welsh/Scottish/
Northern Irish/British ₁₁

Irish ₁₂

Any other White background ₁₃
(X and write in below)

Asian or Asian British

Indian ₃₁

Pakistani ₃₂

Bangladeshi ₃₃

Chinese ₃₄

Any other Asian background ₃₅
(X and write in below)

Other ethnic group

Arab ₅₁

Other ethnic group ₅₂
(X and write in below)

Black or Black British

Caribbean ₂₁

African ₂₂

Any other Black background ₂₃
(X and write in below)

Mixed

White and Black Caribbean ₄₁

White and Black African ₄₂

White and Asian ₄₃

Any other Mixed background ₄₄
(X and write in below)

Travelling Community

Gypsy/Roma ₆₁

Traveller of Irish descent ₆₂

Other member of the
travelling community ₆₃

Thank you very much for taking part in this survey

Please return this form to: Housing Strategy,
Cheshire West and Chester Council, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

Closing date is 15 May 2016