

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SURVEY – TEXT

INTRODUCTION

The housing register is the list of people who have asked us to help with affordable housing. People waiting on that list are put in different 'bands', depending on how urgent their need is. We're planning to make some changes to the way we manage the housing register, and we want to know what you think of our plans.

For each change we're thinking of making, we set out what the change is and why we want to make it, and then we will ask if you

- agree with the change,
- don't have a strong opinion either way, or
- want to keep things the same as they are now.

There are a couple of changes that we're making which we have not included in the survey – the reason we haven't included them is that we are required by law to make these changes, even if people don't agree.

Change 1: Have more levels of priority

| Now | In future |
|--|--|
| Four bands 1. Emergency 2. High 3. Medium 4. Low | Five bands 1. Emergency 2. High 3. Medium 4. Low 5. No priority |

At the moment, everyone who goes on the housing register is given some priority. Even if they have no housing need they will still go in the low priority group. This change would mean people who do have a housing need, even if it is low, will be in a better place than people who don't have a housing need.

Response: I think the council should

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Make the change | I don't have a strong opinion or I'm not sure | Keep things as they are now |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Change 2: Remove priority for people in employment

| Now | In future |
|--|---|
| People with a job are given higher priority. | Removing preference for those in employment |

This is a difficult one for the council because we recognise that having a job is a good thing in many ways. Previously those in employment and in housing need were given preference for 1 in 10 properties. However, the council now recognises that this may discriminate against those who are unable to work.

Response: I think the council should

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Make the change | I don't have a strong opinion or I'm not sure | Keep things as they are now |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Change 3: Give more help with prevention

| Now | In future |
|-----|-----------|
|-----|-----------|

| | |
|--|---|
| If a person is at risk of homelessness without our help, we may owe them a 'prevention duty'. Currently those owed a prevention homelessness duty are given the same priority as those with no housing need. | Those with no housing need will have no priority. Those owed a prevention duty will have more priority in low band. |
|--|---|

This will help us to do more preventative work to avoid people becoming homeless, but it also acknowledges that people in immediate crisis need a higher priority. We need to give some priority to people owed a prevention duty, by law.

Response: I think the council should

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Make the change | I don't have a strong opinion or I'm not sure | Keep things as they are now |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Change 4: Putting welfare and medical priorities together

| Now | In future |
|--|---|
| Welfare and medical priorities are separate. | Welfare and medical priorities will be considered together. |

Putting welfare and medical priorities together will mean we can give wider range of priority on these grounds and means we can be more flexible about giving priority according to how urgent someone's overall need is, not just one or the other.

Response: I think the council should

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Make the change | I don't have a strong opinion or I'm not sure | Keep things as they are now |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Change 5: Changing the level of priority for lacking a bedroom

| Now | In future |
|---|--|
| People with children who lack a bedroom have the same priority as people in a first-floor flat and/or lacking a garden. | People with children who lack a bedroom to be given higher priority than people with children who are in a first-floor flat and/or lacking a garden. |

Living in a first-floor flat or not having a garden isn't great for some people with children, but at the moment they have the same priority on the housing register as people who are overcrowded. Our plan is that we will still give them some priority but people who are overcrowded will have higher priority.

Response: I think the council should

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Make the change | I don't have a strong opinion or I'm not sure | Keep things as they are now |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Change 6: Moving on from hostel (supported) accommodation

| Now | In future |
|--|---|
| People who have been in hostel accommodation for three months or more are given high priority if they are ready for moving on. | The high priority will remain, but only if their only realistic method of moving on is through the housing register. Otherwise, they will be given medium priority. |

Some people who have been in supported accommodation need more support than others to move on. If people need more support, they will continue to have high priority but if they are able to take on a private sector tenancy (either self-contained or shared) they will be given medium priority. This

change will put people in this situation on the same banding as people in other forms of shared accommodation such as shared houses (HMOs).

Response: I think the council should

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Make the change | I don't have a strong opinion or I'm not sure | Keep things as they are now |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Thank you for your time. Please press submit and then read the message on the next page to find out how you can send us your ideas for change.

That's all the changes we are thinking of making for now but we will review the manage the register again in future. If there are any other changes you'd like us to consider, please email us on housinghomechoice@west-norfolk.gov.uk.