

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Housing Board
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Gosport Allocation Scheme
<b>Author:</b>	Housing Needs and Advice manager
<b>Status:</b>	For Approval

### **Purpose**

This report sets out proposals to amend the Council's Allocation Scheme and associated Banding Scheme.

### **Recommendation**

#### **That the Board:**

Approves the amendments to the Allocation Scheme and Banding Scheme as detailed in the report.

## **1.0 Background**

**1.1** The purpose of an allocation scheme is to define a consistent framework which can be used to allocate the limited number of social housing vacancies that become available to those local residents with the greatest need.

**1.2** The Council's Allocation Scheme is reviewed annually to ensure the content is fit for purpose, accurate in line with legislation, and provides clear guidance for officers.

**1.3** The Allocation Scheme was last amended in 2020 when a report was taken to Housing Board on 11 November 2020, setting out the recommended revisions which included:

- Removal of restrictions on households with children under 5 years of age from being allocated to high rise properties
- Rewording subsection 9.4 of the allocation scheme to provide greater clarity around cases heard at the Priority Housing Panel

**1.4** Following a recent review of the Scheme, further amendments are recommended to take account of changes in practise and legislation.

## **2.0 The Allocation Scheme (see appendix A)**

**2.1** **Section 2.7** of the Allocation Scheme ensures we have taken into account and had regard to current statutory requirements. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued an updated Allocation of

Accommodation Guidance in September 2021, and the Council's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 was adopted in July 2022. The Scheme has been amended to reflect these additional documents.

- 2.2** **Section 3.4.5** of the Allocation Scheme sets out the criteria elderly residents in Havant and Fareham must meet in order to be considered for Extra Care accommodation in Gosport. Under the current Scheme, only those households whose care is funded by Hampshire County Council are eligible to be accepted onto the Housing Register for Extra Care accommodation
- 2.3** Following a recent review of the Extra Care Nomination Agreement between the Council and Hampshire County Council, it was agreed to extend the criteria to include households in Havant and Fareham who self-fund their care needs. Applicants will still need to have an eligible care need to qualify.
- 2.4** **Section 7.6** has been included to clarify that applicants with an eligible need under the Care Act 2014 for either a mental health or learning disability, and who need supported accommodation, are referred to Hampshire County Council's Adult Social Care Team.
- 2.5** **Section 15.2** has been amended to clarify that applicants will be assessed for Extra Care Accommodation in accordance with the Council's Banding Scheme. This will ensure consistency when cases are assessed. Recommended changes to the Banding Scheme are included at 3.2 of the report.

### **3.0 The Banding Scheme (see appendix B)**

- 3.1** The banding scheme supplements the allocation scheme and defines the qualifying housing need for each band
- 3.3** **2 High Band 2.3.13** The wording has been amended to reflect the changes following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to take account of both the prevention and relief duties:

*Households with dependent children, or vulnerable adults, who are threatened with homelessness, or are homeless, and the homelessness cannot be prevented or relieved. All households must have a personal housing plan in place and be actively engaging with the plan.*

- 3.2** In order for the banding scheme to reflect the housing need for those requiring extra care accommodation, the following definitions will be included at :

**2 High Band, 2.3.15** *Extra care applicants with a high eligible care need*

**3 Medium Band 3.3.4** *Extra care applicants with a medium eligible care*

*need*

**4 Low Band 4.3.6 Extra care applicants with a low eligible care need**

**4.0 Conclusion**

**4.1** These recommendations will ensure the Council's Allocation Scheme and Banding Scheme are up-to-date, and provide clarity and consistency when dealing with applications.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	N/A
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	Contained within the report
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	EIA dated 05102018 refers and remains unchanged. This will be reviewed and updated to the new IIA format when the Allocation Scheme is next reviewed.
<b>Climate Change implications:</b>	None
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	Deliver effective services by continually reviewing and improving our processes
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Allocation Scheme v2 updated 12112020 Banding Scheme v2 updated 12/11/2020
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix A: draft amended Allocation Scheme Appendix B: draft amended Banding Scheme
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