



Waverley Housing Allocations Policy Consultation

Waverley Housing are reviewing their Allocation Policy to ensure it aligns with the These Homes Choice based lettings System, which we are looking to develop as a replacement to the current system. These changes are planned for early 2026.

Information on these homes can be found at <https://www.thesehomes.com/> and <https://www.thesehomes.com/about>

There will be some small but significant changes to how Waverley Housing advertises and allocates its properties, the policy also reflects small improvements along with the layout, procedural matters and some improvements for applicants. This consultation is to respond to the significant changes shown in the draft policy online which are highlighted. You can access this by clicking the following link <https://www.waverley-housing.co.uk/find-a-home/allocations-policy-consultation/>.

In the following questions if you can either tick agree, no opinion, or disagree to the significant changes and if you wish to add any comment in any space provided.

The following changes being recommended are taken from members of the These Homes Collective, Berwickshire Housing Association and East Lothian Housing Association along with areas of improvement for good practice in line with the Scottish Governments guidance on allocations.

The changes highlighted cover the following;

- Waverley Housing feel it is necessary to improve the qualifying criteria to make clear the process is followed in terms of a person's legal status in the UK, along with proof of ID to ensure compliance with UK Immigration laws and to prevent tenancy fraud.
- We have added reference to recognising the needs of our communities, along with reference to reasonable choice and sustainable communities. This is to ensure we get a balance that benefits all residents whilst meeting the needs and rights of housing applicants.
- Under priority passes we have created three new criteria to recognise those living at home with parents applying for their first affordable home, those who are occupying flats and seeking to move to a house and as a homeless prevention measure recognising those households that experience a relationship

breakdown. The latter two would be for Waverley Housing tenants only seeking to transfer, or where they are relinquishing their joint tenancy right.

- Management transfer in the current policy is general, the changes on Page12 reflect a clearer explanation of the process and offers more transparency on how decisions are made and when.
- Owners applying for housing has been strengthened in line with These Homes partners and reflects a more robust criteria and requirements and ensures no one obtains Social Housing whilst owning and renting out any property and sets some criteria to consider where an owner applies for housing and if they should have made alternative arrangements before selling, or where it relates to disrepair that those repairs can't be made. In some situations, we can offer Short Scottish Secure Tenancies where adjustments are being made to an owners home.
- Local Lettings Plan (LLP) (Page16), an addition is made that reflects where a LLP may be developed to meet identified needs. This links to the most recent consultation and implementation of the LLP for Upper Langlee.
- Waverley Housing currently identifies a property for homeless section 5 when its vacant and matches homeless applicants to properties whilst also allowing for bidding, currently we allow a person two offers, due to the current housing crisis, Waverley Housing are considering making one offer to homeless applicants as part of our statutory duty to ensure we discharge that duty as soon as possible using the matching process and may match an applicant directly to a property.

Thank you for taking the time to review the policy changes and provide your response, we welcome your responses at the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/P1naqgCK34>

Brian Pearson

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