

Allocation Policy Consultation Timetable and Summary of Feedback (Appendix 1)

Stakeholder	Format	How	Venue	Date	Lead Officers
Current and Future applicants (2012)	Workshops Surveys	Emails / invitations to public events to communities of interest and other key distribution lists including Supporting People providers, housing associations. Taras etc Online survey face to face surveys	Springwell Gardens x 2 Rotherham Show Online	11 th July 2012 16 th August 2012 September 2012	Sandra Wardle Jill Jones
Area Assembly meetings	Presentation	Workshops Discussions	Various venues	- Chairs meeting - 18th June 12 - Wentworth North – 9th July 12 - Rother Valley	Jane Davies -Haire

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West – 9th July 2012 - Rotherham North and Rotherham South focus group – 16th July 2012 - Wentworth Valley – 24th July 2012 - Revisited October 2013 	
Supporting People Forums	Presentation	Workshops Discussions	Unity Centre	August 2012	Jane Davies -Haire
Sessions with learning from customers	Presentation	Workshops Discussions	Unity Centre	August 2012	Jane Davies -Haire
Tenant Quality and Standards Monitoring Group	Presentation	Workshops Discussions	Various Venues	August 2012	Jane Davies -Haire
Strategic Housing Partnership	Presentation	Discussions	Various Venues	July 2012	Jane Davies -Haire
Other Local Authorities in Yorkshire Region	Written Verbal	Emails Workshops Meetings Yorkshire and Humber	Various Venues	July 2012 onwards	Sandra Tolley Sandra Wardle Jill Jones

		Homelessness forum CBL North group			
Current and Future applicants (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written - Face to face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveys - News Articles - Road shows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customer Services Centres - Property Shop - Shiloh - Gate Surgery - Visits 	June 2012 to 30 th August 2013	Sandra Wardle Jill Jones James Greenhedge
Elected Members including Improving Places Select Committee	Seminar and written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop - Report - Briefings - Discussions 	Town hall	August 2012 24 th July 2013 August 2013	Sandra Wardle Jill Jones
Rotherfed	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Workshops -Discussions 	At Rotherfed	August 2013	Sandra Wardle Jill Jones
Staff	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions at team meetings - Briefings - Training sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Management Housing options Property Shop 	Housing options -7 th August 2013 Rawmarsh champions 12 th August Wath Champions 14 th august Riverside champions 15 th august	Sandra Tolley Sandra Wardle Jill Jones

				Maltby champions 28 th august	
Housing Associations	Presentation	-Workshops -Discussions	Property Shop	August 2012 Sept 2013	Jane Davies –Haire Sandra Wardle Jill Jones
ROPES	Presentation	Workshops Discussions	My Place	October 2013	Sandra Wardle Jill Jones

A summary of feedback from the consultation is as follows:

- The vast majority agreed that the current Housing Register should be reduced and only include people who are in high housing need
- The vast majority wanted to remove people with no local connection to Rotherham from the register. A three year rule was proposed by most as this will be the same as Doncaster, although both a one year and a five year rule were also suggested. Households in the General group in housing need should be absorbed into other housing need groups, this would avoid applicants gambling with their waiting time date
- Cancel applications if they are not bidding
- Instead of calling the groups, emergency, priority, urgent etc what is the difference why not be simple and rename to numbers (1 to 3)
- The vast majority agreed that people not in housing need should be removed from the housing register, however a suggestion was to set aside a small quota for good council tenants to transfer, this supports the local letting policy for new build.
- People strongly agreed that applicants who own their own home who are fit and well with no medical housing needs should not be allowed to join the register
- People agreed that applicants who owe money to the Council shouldn't be allowed on the register

- One comment relating to employment was “We can’t give priority to people in work as it is difficult to find work, and how would we justify giving priority to people in work if they have no local connection to Rotherham other than work related, it wouldn’t be fair to local people trying to find a job.
- Direct debits should be encouraged rather than make it mandatory as we could contribute to debt if the direct debit was taken out of the bank when no funds available, would then incur bank charges
- Overwhelmingly the majority of people agreed that Council tenants who have any breaches in their tenancy condition should not be allowed to transfer to another Council house, but we should reward the good tenants and allow them to move
- People agreed that we should stop undertaking housing register reviews
- For people under 18 it should be mandatory to receive tenancy support
- The application should be cancelled following 2 refusals

Some of the individual comments from people who were interviewed, Improving Places Select Committee, various stakeholders and staff were:

“I’ve been waiting for a Council House for 5 years, it’s a joke. We need more homes for local people”

“I think home owners should Not get a council house, unless they are being repossessed”

“Why should people who can afford a mortgage get a council house?”

“Home owners should sell up and buy something suitable”

“Home owners with medical needs should be allowed to get a council house but their house should be sold”

“Council tenants who do not look after their property or who owe money should be barred”

“Council tenants who don’t look after their property or who owe arrears should be able to move, everyone deserves a second chance”

“Council tenants who don’t look after their property should be allowed to go on the register but stop them from moving until they have sorted out the problems”

“The housing register should be based on need, we need to rationalise the list”

“ The Council ought to offer a discount for those paying direct debit”

“ Agree we should remove the general group”

“If we remove people not in housing need it will mean the waiting time for people in housing need will reduce”

“ We need to have young person tenancy support”

“Scale down the general group”

“We need to stop people getting a council house then registering to move again”

We need to stop people for bidding for properties they don't want and have no intention of moving”

“Agree we need a local connection”

“If the general group remained its pointless if we don't let them bid as they will complain they are not getting properties”