


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>ECONOMIC REGENERATION, HOUSING AND THE ARTS POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>8 November 2017</p>	
<p>PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME</p>	
<p>Discussion Paper</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For review and comment Key Decision: Yes</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Jo Rowlands - Lead Director of Regeneration, Planning & Housing</p>	
<p>Report Author: Glendine Shepherd, Interim Director of Housing Services Gerry Crowley, Interim Head of Housing Solutions</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 6994 Gerry.crowley@lbhf.gov.uk</p>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Council's current Housing Allocation Scheme was last reviewed in November 2015. This report identifies a number of areas within the Scheme currently under review. The proposed changes are set out in Annexe 1 and contain several areas of the scheme which members may wish to consider.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The committee is invited to review and comment on the changes proposed to the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme.

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Council is statutorily obliged to adopt and operate a Housing Allocation Scheme (also known as the 'Scheme of Allocation') which sets out the rules by which it allocates available affordable rented accommodation. The current

Housing Allocation Scheme was last amended with changes implemented on 21 December 2015.

- 3.2. The Lead Member for Housing has identified a number of areas to the Housing Allocation Scheme to be reviewed and invites members to discuss those highlighted changes and other possible changes to the scheme.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. There are five proposed changes to the current Scheme. These changes are set out at Annexe 1 and relate to:
- Bedroom Standard
 - Local Residency Qualification
 - Under-occupancy
 - Ex-employees with service tenancies
- 4.2. Annexe 2 contains tables displaying a breakdown of the Council's housing register, details of annual housing allocations and local authority comparisons.
- 4.3. Annexe 3 contains the current Housing Allocation Scheme.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1. The proposed changes are considered minor amendments to the Scheme and the Cabinet Member for Housing has delegated authority to approve such changes. Major alterations to the scheme reflecting major policy changes requires consultation with Registered Providers (housing associations) and will require approval by Cabinet.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The equality implications of the proposed changes to the Scheme are expected to be broadly positive. The changes would enable greater access to the Council's housing register and therefore the impacts can be expected to be positive. Any increase in the number of applicants on the Council's housing register could result in longer waiting times for those already on the register, many of whom will also be from protected equality groups.

7. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. These will be confirmed following finalised amendments.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Annexe 1. – Areas of the Scheme under review

Annexe 2. Data Tables and Comparisons with other Local Authorities

Annexe 3. H&F Housing Allocation Scheme