

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 January 2019

Amendments to the Housing Allocations Scheme

1. Contacts

Report Author:

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 For the Committee to duly note the amendments to Chichester District Council's Housing Allocations Scheme, which clarify the eligibility of members of the Armed Forces and former Service Personnel to join the Council's Housing Register.**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 5th October 2018, the Local Government Ombudsman concluded an investigation into a complaint from a former serving member of the armed forces in relation to how the Council had dealt with his application to join the Council's Housing Register. The Ombudsman concluded that the Council had misinterpreted the legislation in this regard, and had therefore disadvantaged the applicant.

The Ombudsman instructed the Council to review and amend its Housing Allocations Scheme as necessary, to ensure those serving or those who have served in the Armed Forces are dealt with correctly.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 5.1 For the committee to duly note that as directed by the Local Government Ombudsman, the Council has reviewed and amended its Housing Allocations Scheme to ensure the eligibility criteria for members of the Armed Forces, and those who have served in the Armed Forces within the last five years is clear and transparent and does not disadvantage them in any way.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 The amendments detailed in the Appendix are required to provide clarification, and ensure transparency with regard to the eligibility of these applicants to join the Council's Housing Register.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. Resource and legal implications

7.1 None

8. Consultation

8.1 Not applicable

9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1 The amendment will ensure those members of the community, who due to the nature of their employment have been unable to establish a local connection to a particular area are not disadvantaged in anyway when applying for housing.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder:		√
Climate Change and Biodiversity:		√
Human Rights and Equality Impact: The review and subsequent amendment to the Housing Allocation Scheme will ensure serving members or former members of the armed services are not disadvantaged in any way when applying for housing.	√	
Safeguarding and Early Help:		√
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):		√

11. Appendix

11.1 Amendments to Chichester District Council Housing Allocations Scheme

12. Background Papers

12.1 Chichester District Council Housing Allocations Scheme