

Appendix C – Local Connection

A Local Connection can be defined in two ways. These are:

- Local Connection to Chichester District
- Local Connection to a rural parish within the District.
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Proving a Local Connection to Chichester District

The District Council will only accept that an applicant has a local connection to Chichester District if they are able to prove that one of the following statements applies to at least one adult applicant:

- Currently permanently reside, through choice, within the Chichester District and have done so without a break for the preceding two years.
- Have resided within Chichester District for four out of the last six years.
An applicant is currently employed within the district and has been continuously for at least the last 12 months. Although the employment need not be paid the applicant must be able to prove that they perform genuine work that is carried out predominantly within the Chichester District boundaries. Their employment must include at least 20 hours per week within the District.
- The applicant needs to live in the District to provide care to, or be provided with care from, a close relative (defined as mother, father, brother, sister or grown up children of the applicant) and that person has lived continuously in the District for a period of five years. The person providing the care will, in most cases, have to demonstrate that they receive, or are entitled to receive, Carer's Allowance.
- Other exceptional circumstances that the local authority might reasonably consider to constitute a local connection as agreed by the Head of Housing and Environment Services and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

~~The Council will not disqualify the following applicants on the grounds that they do not have a local connection with the authority's district:~~

The Council will not disqualify or disadvantage the following applicants on the grounds that they do not have a local connection with the authority's district. These applicants will be awarded Local Connection to Chichester District and Local Connection to all rural parishes within the District.

- members of the Armed Forces and former Service personnel, where the application is made within five years of discharge;
- bereaved spouses and civil partners of members of the Armed Forces leaving Services Family Accommodation following the death of their spouse or partner;
- serving or former members of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service;

Furthermore the Council will not disqualify the following applicants on the grounds that they do not have a local connection with the authority's district:

- homeless applicants owed the full housing duty by Chichester District Council under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996;
- existing social tenants seeking to transfer from another local authority district in England who:
 - have reasonable preference because of a need to move to Chichester District to avoid hardship, and

- need to move because the tenant works or has been offered work in Chichester District and has a genuine intention to take up the offer.

Note: Occupiers of mobile homes and holiday type accommodation will not be accorded a local connection unless they have lived in the accommodation **and** paid Council Tax for a period of at least two years.