

Policy Amendment: Interim Adjustments to Housing Allocations Banding

Policy Title: Housing Allocations Policy 2017 – Interim Amendments Prior to Implementation of 2025 Policy

Effective Date: 1st November 2025

Expiry Date: 31 March 2026

Approved by: Housing Policy Committee

Date of Approval: 8th October 2025

1. Removal of Band 1 Additional Preference for Individuals in Supported Accommodation

Effective from 1st November 2025, any individual entering Homelessness Commissioned Supported Accommodation will no longer be awarded Band 1 Additional Preference under the 2017 Housing Allocations Policy.

- This amendment reflects a shift in homelessness pressures from single individuals to families.
- Individuals in supported accommodation will be considered under Band 2 or alternative pathways such as the Private Rented Sector Access Scheme or non-commissioned supported accommodation.
- Those who entered supported accommodation prior to 1st November 2025 will retain their current banding until 31 March 2026.

2. Introduction of Band 1 Additional Preference for Families in Temporary Accommodation

From 1st November 2025, Band 1 Additional Preference will be awarded to households who:

- Are placed in Temporary Accommodation,
- Have a housing need of two bedrooms or more, and
- Have received a Main Duty Homelessness Decision from the Council's Housing Needs Team.

This amendment aims to:

- Expedite move-on from temporary accommodation,
- Reduce reliance on costly Bed & Breakfast placements,
- Improve outcomes for families experiencing prolonged homelessness.



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3. Implementation of Band 1 Additional Preference for Downsizing Households

The Council will implement the Right Home, Right Size Downsizing Scheme, whereby:

- Eligible households under-occupying social housing will be awarded Band 1 Additional Preference,
- Allocations will be processed through the Under One Roof system,
- Applicants may select a preference for accommodation type and area.
- Applicants may refuse up to three suitable offers.

This measure is intended to:

- Free up larger properties for homeless families,
- Ensure transparency and accountability in allocations,
- Support strategic use of the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

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Housing Needs Manager



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