

Changing our housing allocation scheme - we want your views

Overview

We are looking at how we allocate social housing (council and housing association homes) in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. By law, we must explain in writing who can apply for social housing, who gets priority and how we are making sure it is allocated to the people who need it most. We do this through our Housing Allocation Scheme.

Everyone who applies for housing in the Borough and is eligible goes on a list known as the Housing Register. Currently almost 15,000 households are on the list, and on average we only have around 1,700 homes available to let each year.

Why We Are Consulting

We have decided to look at how we allocate social housing because we want to:

- Manage the impact and additional demands arising from the households affected by the Welfare Reforms
- Clarify which groups will face restriction or will be excluded from the Housing Register
- Re-prioritise some of the existing priority groups and give priority to additional groups
- Take into account local priorities and reduce demand where possible
- Revise the 5 year residency qualification, which is applied to applicants making a housing application, following a review of the policy.
- Reflect legislative and administrative changes that have occurred, including the greater flexibilities which councils now have to set local priorities, within the Localism Act 2011

Who Are We Consulting With

We are inviting a number of stakeholders, including MPs, Councillors, current Housing Register applicants, Council tenants, equality groups, voluntary organisations and local Registered Providers to consider the proposed revisions to the Allocations Scheme.

How to Provide Feedback

A summary of the proposals and the current Allocations Policy can be found at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/haveyour_say

You are invited to consider the proposals and complete the questionnaire during the **one month** consultation period commencing on **12 November 2014** until

the **9 December 2014**. The questionnaire can be found at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/haveyour_say.

If you have any questions or queries about the proposals please contact:

ferzana.ali@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Next Steps

All feedback received during the consultation period will be carefully considered. Decisions on proposed amendments to the Allocations Scheme will be taken by elected Members of the Cabinet and any approved changes introduced on a date agreed by them.