

Appendix. 2 Consultation: Proposal Form

Please provide the following information and send to consultation@stevenage.gov.uk. If agreed, you will then be invited to a [Consultation Champions](#) meeting to discuss.

*denotes information that will be made public on our website

Responsible service	Housing Services
*Lead officer	Walter Oglina
Manager agreeing the consultation	
<u>Consultation Champion</u>	Maureen Herdman
*Subject of consultation e.g. Views on play services	Views on the recommendations in regards to changes to the Allocations Review
*Title e.g. Have your say on play	Allocations Policy Review
*What are the key objectives of your consultation? e.g. need to save money from the play service budget and find out which proposals residents prefer.	To review the Allocations Policy in light of recommendations from the Community Select Committee, Members, Officers and the Housing Management Advisory Board.
Is this with staff or the public?	Public
*Who do you need to consult? e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • council housing tenants • under 18s • 19-64 • over 65 • service users – state service • all residents • staff • people who visit the town • people in adjoining areas 	All Stevenage residents and partner organisations (RSL's/CAB). All Council Members
Target number of participants	All
*Geographic area covered	Stevenage
*Start date	11 th December 2017
*End date	31st January 2018
*Method(s) proposed, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey • Postal survey • Telephone survey • Face to face survey • Letter / leaflet / newsletter • Suggestion form • Public meeting • Focus group • Event 	Website Paper survey (at CSC) Members via e-mail

Stage One: Agreeing and confirming a consultation

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Have you checked to see if an EqlA is required? Click for Toolkit	Yes, to be carried out once consultation has taken place and final recommendations are signed off
How will you boost participation from minority or seldom-heard groups such as BME residents, young people etc.?	Via voluntary groups
Where will you advertise your activity? List all that apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Twitter • Can You Hear Me? • Chronicle • The Comet • The Advertiser • Bob FM • Posters in community buildings • Internal (please explain) • Other (please explain) 	SBC Website and The Chronicle
*How will you feed back the results and how they will / have been used to participants?	SBC Website and The Chronicle
*When will the results be published on the website?	Summer 2018
Who will the results be reported to internally?	CSC, Review scoping group, Assistant Director and Portfolio Holder
*Qualtrics Survey link – to be entered once survey designed (only public for E-survey method)	

Questions for Consultation:

Currently the Allocations Policy requires that anyone applying to join the Housing Register must demonstrate 5 years continuous residency, without any break during this period, in Stevenage (apart from where we are legally required to house people). We are looking to make some minor changes to this '5 year rule':

1. Currently when households who are facing homelessness come to us for advice and then subsequently find their own private accommodation outside of the Borough they lose their local connection. We are considering that these households keep their local connection for up to 2 years to reflect the household's efforts and reducing demand on SBC resources and our housing stock.

Where clients are at risk of homelessness have made their own arrangements outside of the Borough and not relied on Stevenage Housing stock do you think they should keep their local connection for up to 2 years. Yes or No.

Stage One: Agreeing and confirming a consultation

2. The current local connection rule (5 years) affects households who have lived in Stevenage for a number of years that have moved out of the area for a short period of time (i.e. for work, study or a relationship), if this fails then they lose their local connection and have to wait a further 5 years before they can apply Stevenage for housing. We are considering that the local connection rule is amended to 5 years out of the past 7 so that Stevenage residents who move out for a short period of time can apply for Council housing.

Please choose your preferred local connection: 5 years continuous or 5 out of the last 7 years.

3. Currently households who are under-occupying their properties do not get a priority. They are placed in a Band that does not allow them to bid for properties. This has resulted in Stevenage not releasing under-occupied properties to other households who may be over-crowded or in temporary accommodation, as much as we would like to. We are recommending that under-occupiers are given a priority (Band B for under-occupying by two bedrooms or more, Band C for under-occupying by 1 bedroom), allowing them to bid on smaller properties and make available family accommodation for other households that may be overcrowded.

Should households who live in properties that are too big for them be allowed to bid for smaller properties. Yes or No