

# Annual Review of the Housing Allocation Scheme

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**Gravesham**  
Borough Council



# Introduction

Local authorities are required to publish a Housing Allocation Scheme.

This policy sets out the Council's priorities for how social housing in the Borough of Gravesham is allocated, and the guidelines which determine entitlement and eligibility to social housing.

The broad objectives of the scheme are to:

- To ensure we are letting properties in line with Part VI of the Housing Act 1996.
- Determine the priority of applicants in a clear, transparent and consistent way.
- Allocate affordable housing fairly and to those in greatest need.
- Create sustainable communities by the use of local lettings plans.

# Background

The was previously revised in March 2023.

The Head of Housing Solutions deferred the review of the scheme following an announcement by government in January 2024. The announcement outlined there would be a consultation on reforms to social housing allocations and sought the views of local authorities.

However, following the announcement of an election, this piece of work stalled and therefore, a review of the Housing Allocation scheme took place.

Confirmation has been received that this reform is no longer proceeding.

# Housing Allocation Scheme key changes 2024 review

## New Sections

Move on from supported accommodation (section 3.6)	This is a new section which stipulates when priority will be awarded to households moving on from supported housing.
Deliberate worsening of housing circumstances (section 3.10)	This ensures all households are aware of the potential implication if they contribute to worsening of their circumstances or housing situation.
Victims and survivors of domestic abuse (section 4.4)	Linked into DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) to ensure the policy addresses domestic abuse in its own right and details the work the council will do to ensure they access safe accommodation.
Care Leavers (section 4.5)	This section confirms that care leavers can apply to join the councils housing register (three-year residency not required), if they are currently residing in Gravesham.
Temporary Housing Support (section 4.6)	This is a new initiative being piloted to reduce reliance on temporary accommodation for households who work with the council to prevent their homelessness.
Pitches for Gypsies and Travelers (section 6.2)	Provides clarity on the process and what the council will do to ensure that we allocate pitches fairly.

# Conclusion

The Housing Service is responsible for the Housing Allocation Scheme. It is important that we review the scheme annually and follow any changes to the relevant legislation or regulations.

In line with the Housing Allocation Scheme, Authority to introduce minor amendments is delegated to the Director (Housing) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Services.

Therefore, the changes outlined within this presentation have been made to the existing scheme and has been available on our website from September 2024.

# Thank you for listening



## Any questions?