

INFORMATION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	8 SEPTEMBER 2015	14

RIGHT TO MOVE: STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The Allocation of Housing (Qualification Criteria for Right to Move) (England) Regulations 2015 came into force on the 20th April 2015 and new statutory guidance on the allocation of accommodation in relation to Right to Move was issued.

The Regulations ensure that, where local housing authorities decide to use a local connection requirement as a qualification criteria, they must not apply that criteria to certain persons so as to disqualify them from an allocation of social housing. Specifically, a local connection requirement may not be applied to social tenants in England who:

1. Have reasonable preference because of a need to move to the local authority's district to avoid hardship, and
2. Need to move because the tenant works or has been offered work in the district of the authority and has a genuine intention to take up the offer.

Minor amendments are required to the Common Assessment Policy for MyHomeChoiceFyldeCoast used by partners signed up to the sub regional Choice Based Lettings system (CBL).

1. Need to move because of social or welfare reasons to avoid hardship is already reflected in the policy under 3: Application Assessment, 3.1.4 (page 18) where applicants who need to move to a particular locality within the borough to avoid hardship to themselves or others are awarded priority Banding D.
2. The current consistent assessment policy for employment is working for 16 hours per week or more and held for a minimum of 6 months prior to the application for the award to be eligible to satisfy the Local Connection criteria. (13 Appendix Three: Definition of Working Households and Community Contribution p.42)
3. The qualification regulations 2015 only apply if work is not short term or marginal in nature, nor ancillary to work in another district.
4. Amendments to the policy will reflect that:
 - i) Offers of employment should be regular, intended to last for more than 12 months, over 16 hours a week unless the remuneration is substantial, the main place of work is within the Authority and there is a genuine intention to take up the offer of work.
 - ii) The Processing Partner is provided with appropriate evidence to satisfy themselves applicants will be allowed onto the CBL without a 3 year local connection. Appropriate evidence can include contract of employment, wage/salary slips, formal offer letter and tax and benefits information.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Right to move. Statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local housing authorities in England.
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418437/Right to move - statutory guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418437/Right_to_move_-_statutory_guidance.pdf)

LINK TO INFORMATION

MyHomeChoiceFyldeCoast Common Assessment Policy

Chapter 3: Application Assessment, 3.1.4 (page 18)

Appendix Three: Definition of Working Households and Community Contribution (page 42)

<https://www.myhomechoicefyldecoast.co.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/176.aspx>

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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