
REVIEW OF CURRENT ALLOCATION POLICY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews the current allocation policy implemented in October 2001 and seeks Committee's agreement to minor amendments.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On 3rd October 2001, Committee agreed to the implementation of a new Allocation Policy following consultation.
- 2.2 Members requested a follow up report after at least six months to advise how the system was working and whether any amendments were required in order to aid operations.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The scheme has now been running for almost a year and in general the points scheme works efficiently, giving most priority to those in the greatest need. However there are two areas where a change is suggested.
- 3.2 One of the problems identified is that the current level of points do not give enough priority to those tenants placed in accommodation by the homelessness section. This causes a bottleneck in the movement of homeless cases. If those in temporary accommodation are not moved regularly into permanent accommodation, people will wait longer in bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 3.3 In order to alleviate these problems the Head of Service seeks agreement to amend the current scheme forthwith to give those accepted as homeless and placed in any accommodation an additional 10 points for every three months that they are in that accommodation.
- 3.4 Additionally the scheme omitted to give points for a person that 'needs to recover from the effects of violence (including racial attacks) or threats of violence or physical, emotional or sexual abuse and the allegations have been investigated and proved on a balance of probabilities'. This was included in the previous scheme and is now included in the Domestic Violence Strategy, which is also on tonight's agenda (Item 14) and the Racial Harassment Policy adopted last year. Again, authority is sought to re-implement the grant of 10 points forthwith.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There will be no additional staff required.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The amendment of these point levels is not contrary to the provisions of the Housing Act 1996.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To implement the following changes to the current Allocation Policy:

- 10 additional points for every three months that an applicant is living in any accommodation provided by the homeless section
- 10 points for
'If you or any member of your household need to recover from the effects of violence (including racial attacks) or threats of violence or physical, emotional or sexual abuse and the allegations have been investigated and proved on a balance of probabilities.' (HRHM)

Steve Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers: RDC Allocation Policy, Domestic Violence Policy.

For further information please contact Tricia Colwell on:-

Tel:- 01702 318030

E-Mail:- tricia.colwell@rochford.gov.uk