



**Service Delivery
Committee**

13 October 2015

For Information

Title: **Choice Based Lettings Residency Changes**

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1 Introduction

The purpose of the report is to provide Members an opportunity to review the Housing Allocations Policy and potentially increase the residency criteria to 2 years.

2 Recommendations

That members note this report and approve the necessary statutory consultation.

3 Information

In August 2015 Leicester City Council adopted the following residency criteria in its Housing Allocations Policy :

Applicants living within the city of Leicester must be able to produce documentary evidence that they have used a residential address within the City as their settled home for 2 consecutive years immediately prior to their housing application.

There is concern that this decision by the City Council could result in an increase in demand in Oadby and Wigston as a consequence.

It is felt that there may be a need to respond to by similarly changing our own policy. This can only be done after the completion of the statutory consultation process. As part of this consideration process it is also intended to provide special workshop sessions for members to explore and explain the issues involved.

There is no evidence that this concern has actually materialised yet and any change to our policy will need to be carefully considered to guard against any unintended consequences.

People and families who fail this test could still have to be admitted to the Housing Register if they present as;

- Homeless
- Occupying insanitary or overcrowded housing
- In need of moving on medical or welfare grounds

- Or people who need to move to a particular locality where failure to meet that need would cause hardship.

Recent legal cases have strengthened the claims of people in these situations. As such those who are care leavers from the District but have been accommodated elsewhere, those escaping domestic violence or those who are owed a main homelessness duty will likely be treated as qualifying.

Therefore any change to our residency requirements in our Housing Allocations Policy would also need to be accompanied by a review of our Homelessness and Housing Allocations Policies and be considered alongside how we deliver services in this area generally.

The Council is a member of a sub-regional partnership which includes Melton BC, North West Leicestershire DC, Hinckley & Bosworth BC, Blaby DC, Harborough DC and Charnwood BC. The proposed change to Policy may make continued membership of the partnership unviable.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	No Significant Implications
Risk (AC)	No Significant Implications
Equalities (AC)	No Significant Implications
Legal (AC)	No Significant Implications