

# **Report to Housing Scrutiny Standing Panel**

**Date of meeting: 30 July 2009**

**Subject: Ethnic Monitoring**

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**Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry (01992 56 4246)**

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## **Recommendations:**

**That no recommendations be made concerning amendments to the Council's Allocations Scheme due to ethnicity as current figures do not show a significant disparity between the ethnicity of applicants on the Housing Register, and those allocated both general needs and sheltered accommodation through the Housing Register.**

## **Report:**

1. The Council has a Policy Statement for Equal Opportunities in the Provision of Housing Services. The Policy Statement includes a requirement for an annual review of the ethnicity of applicants on the Housing Register, compared with the ethnicity of those allocated accommodation. In addition during 2006, the Council undertook Race and Diversity Impact Assessments across all Services which are to be renewed this year. When assessing Older People's Housing Services it was identified that the ethnicity of applicants allocated sheltered accommodation should be monitored separately and is therefore included in this report.
2. The reason for the review is to identify whether or not there are any indications to suggest the Council may be discriminating against any one ethnic group. The review is undertaken by the Housing Scrutiny Panel.
3. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register for both 2007/08 and 2008/09 is set out in the following table:

| <b>Ethnic Group</b>       | <b>2007/08 (%)</b> | <b>2008/09 (%)</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| White British/Irish       | 77.8               | 78.0               |
| Bangladesh/Pakistan/India | 0.8                | 0.8                |
| African/Caribbean         | 1.8                | 3.0                |
| Mixed Race                | 0.4                | 1.2                |
| Other                     | 4.2                | 5.0                |

| <b>Ethnic Group</b> | <b>2007/08 (%)</b> | <b>2008/09 (%)</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Not Stated          | 15.0               | 12.0               |

4. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated Council accommodation in 2007/08 and 2008/09 is set out in the following table:

| <b>Ethnic Group</b>       | <b>2007/08 (%)</b> | <b>2008/09 (%)</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| White British/Irish       | 76.0               | 82.0               |
| Bangladesh/Pakistan/India | 0.4                | 0.2                |
| African/Caribbean         | 2.2                | 1.0                |
| Mixed Race                | 0.2                | 0.8                |
| Other                     | 3.1                | 3.0                |
| Not Stated                | 18.1               | 13.0               |

5. Generally, the statistics confirm that the ethnicity of applicants allocated accommodation is similar to those of different ethnic groups on the Housing Register.

6. The following table shows the breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register awaiting sheltered accommodation in both 2007/08 and 2008/09.

| <b>Ethnic Group</b>       | <b>2007/08 (%)</b> | <b>2008/09 (%)</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| White British/Irish       | 75.9               | 80.0               |
| Bangladesh/Pakistan/India | 0.6                | 0                  |
| African/Caribbean         | 0                  | 1.0                |
| Mixed Race                | 0                  | 0                  |
| Other                     | 1.0                | 1.0                |
| Not Stated                | 22.5               | 18.0               |

7. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated sheltered accommodation during both 2007/2008 and 2008/09 is set out in the following table:

| <b>Ethnic Group</b>       | <b>2007/08 (%)</b> | <b>2008/09 (%)</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| White British/Irish       | 74.0               | 88.0               |
| Bangladesh/Pakistan/India | 0                  | 0                  |
| African/Caribbean         | 0                  | 0                  |
| Mixed Race                | 0                  | 0                  |
| Other                     | 4.0                | 0                  |
| Not Stated                | 22.0               | 12.0               |

8. When comparing the ethnic breakdown, there appears to be no significant disparity between the ethnicity of applicants in need of sheltered accommodation in the District and those allocated sheltered accommodation.

9. The breakdown of the ethnicity of the population of the District is set out in the table below for information (source EFDC Census 2001):

| <b>Ethnic Group</b>       | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| White British/Irish       | 92.41                 |
| Bangladesh/Pakistan/India | 2.14                  |
| African/Caribbean         | 0.78                  |
| Mixed Race                | 1.04                  |
| Other                     | 3.63                  |

**Statement in support of recommended action:**

10. Although a large number of housing applicants do not disclose their ethnicity, it is evident from the analyses shown in the report that the ethnic make up of the Housing Register mirrors the allocation of vacancies sufficiently for the Council to be confident that its Allocations Scheme does not racially discriminate, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, no adjustments to the Allocations Scheme are recommended.

**Consultation undertaken:**

11. The Tenants and Leaseholders Federation noted the contents of the report at their meeting on 14 July 2009 and had no comments. The Housing Portfolio Holder has asked that the report be published in the Member's Bulletin after the meeting of the Panel.

**Resource implications:**

**Budget provision:** None

**Personnel:** None

**Land:** None

**Community Plan/BVPP reference:** Social inclusion

**Relevant statutory powers:** Housing Act 1996, as amended

**Background papers:** None

**Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:** Human Rights

**Key Decision reference:** (if required)