

# **Report to Housing Scrutiny Standing Panel**

**Date of meeting: 21 July 2005**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio: Housing**

**Subject: Ethnic Monitoring – Housing Register and Allocations**

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Committee Secretary: Zoe Folley**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That no recommendations be made concerning amendments to the Council's Allocations Scheme as current figures do not show a significant disparity between:**

- 1) the number of ethnic minority applicants in housing need in the district; and**
- 2) the number allocated 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, this was previously undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1), but will now need to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

2. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register at 31/03/05 was as follows:

(a) White British/Irish	82.1 %
(b) Not stated	13.3 %
(c) Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	1.0 %
(d) African/Caribbean	1.2 %
(e) Mixed race	0.4 %
(f) Other	2.0 %

3. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated Council accommodation during between 01/04/04 and 31/03/05 was as follows:

(a) White British/Irish	82.6 %
(b) Not stated	13.8 %
(c) Bangladesh/Pakistan/Indian	0.4 %
(d) African/Caribbean	1.5 %
(e) Mixed race	0.0 %
(f) Other	1.7 %

**Statement in support of recommended action:**

4. Although around 13% of housing applicants do not disclose their ethnicity, it is evident from the analyses shown above that the ethnic make up of the Housing Register mirrors the allocation of vacancies sufficiently for the Council to be confident that its Allocation Scheme does not racially discriminate, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, no adjustments to the Allocation Scheme are recommended.

**Consultation undertaken:**

None

**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 Act

Key Decision reference: (if required)