

**Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel**  
**Date of meeting: 19 July 2011**



**Portfolio: Housing – Councillor Mrs M McEwen**

**Subject: Ethnic Monitoring**

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**Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)**

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**Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That no recommendations be made concerning amendments to the Council's Housing 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. When undertaking a Customer Impact Assessment of Older Peoples' 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, in consultation with the Tenants and Leaseholder's Federation.

3. It should be noted that in the current and future years, in addition to the percentage of applicants, the number of applicants is also included in the statistics as requested by the Panel when the report was considered last year:

4. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register for both 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 is set out in the following table.

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
White British/Irish	79	3956 (77.3%)
Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	0.7	42 (0.8%)
African/Caribbean	3.2	167 (3.3%)
Mixed Race	1.2	62 (1.2%)

Other	4.4	254 (5%)
Not Stated	11.5	637 (12.4%)

5. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of all Housing Register applicants allocated Council accommodation in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 is set out in the following table:

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>2009/2010 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
White British/Irish	76.4	290 (81.2%)
Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	0.9	0
African/Caribbean	2.2	8 (2.2%)
Mixed Race	0.6	8 (2.2%)
Other	4.6	13 (3.6%)
Not Stated	15.3	38 (10.6%)

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

7. The following table shows the breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register awaiting sheltered accommodation in both 2009/2010 and 2010/11.

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
White British/Irish	83	460 (83%)
Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	0	0
African/Caribbean	0.2	3 (0.5%)
Mixed Race	0	0
Other	1.3	8 (1.5%)

Not Stated	15.5	83 (15%)
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8. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated sheltered accommodation during both 2009/2010 and 2010/11 is set out in the following table:

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
White British/Irish	83.8	96 (82.7%)
Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	0	0
African/Caribbean	2.6	0
Mixed Race	0	0
Other	2.6	4 (3.5%)
Not Stated	11	16 (13.8%)

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

10. 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:**

11. 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:**

12. The Tenants and Leaseholders Federation will be updated on the report at their next meeting on 6 July 2011, any comments they may have will be reported orally.

**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: Customer Impact Assessment, Housing Service Strategy on Equality and Diversity & the Code of Practice in Rented Housing.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: N/A

Key Decision reference: (if required) N/A