

Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 24 July 2012

Portfolio: Housing – Councillor D Stallan

Subject: Ethnic Monitoring

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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins extension 4607



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.
2. When undertaking a Customer Impact Assessment of Older Peoples' Housing Services it was identified that the ethnicity of applicants on the Housing Register awaiting sheltered accommodation compared to those allocated sheltered accommodation should be monitored separately and is therefore included in this report.
3. 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.
4. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register for both 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 is set out in the following table.

Ethnic Group	2010/11	2011/12
White British/Irish	3,956 (77.3%)	4,578 (74.95%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	42 (0.8%)	49 (0.8%)
African/Caribbean	167 (3.3%)	227 (3.72%)
Mixed Race	62 (1.2%)	79 (1.29%)

Other	254 (5%)	370 (6.06%)
Not Stated	637 (12.4%)	805 (13.18%)

5. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of all Housing Register applicants allocated Council accommodation in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 is set out in the following table:

Ethnic Group	2010/11	2011/2012
White British/Irish	290 (81.2%)	274 (77.6%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	0	2 (0.6%)
African/Caribbean	8 (2.2%)	10 (2.8%)
Mixed Race	8 (2.2%)	4 (1.1%)
Other	13 (3.6%)	12 (3.4%)
Not Stated	38 (10.6%)	51 (14.5%)

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 2010/2011 and 2011/12.

Ethnic Group	2010/11	2011/12
White British/Irish	460 (83%)	334 (83.3%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	0	0
African/Caribbean	3 (0.5%)	2 (0.5%)
Mixed Race	0	0
Other	8 (1.5%)	8 (2.0%)

Not Stated	83 (15%)	57 (14.2%)
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8. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated sheltered accommodation during both 2010/2011 and 2011/12 is set out in the following table:

Ethnic Group	2010/11	2011/12
White British/Irish	96 (82.7%)	55 (80.9%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	0	0
African/Caribbean	0	0
Mixed Race	0	0
Other	4 (3.5%)	0
Not Stated	16 (13.8%)	13 (19.1%)

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):

Ethnic Group	Percentage (%)
White British/Irish	92.41
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	2.14
African/Caribbean	0.78
Mixed Race	1.04
Other	3.63

11. The Panel are asked to note that, following the 2011 National Census, an updated breakdown of the ethnicity of the population of the District will be available and reported next year.

Statement in support of recommended action:

12. 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.

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