

Report to Housing Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 17 June 2013

Subject: Ethnic Monitoring

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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That no changes be recommended regarding the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme, concerning ethnicity, as current figures do not show a significant disparity between the ethnicity of applicants and those allocated 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 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 is set out in the following table:

Ethnic Group	2011/12	2012/13
White British/Irish	4,578 (74.95%)	5,113 (73.64%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	49 (0.8%)	65 (0.94%)
African/Caribbean	227 (3.72%)	275 (3.96%)
Mixed Race	79 (1.29%)	97 (1.4%)
Other	370 (6.06%)	437 (6.29%)
Not Stated	805 (13.18%)	956 (13.77%)
Total	6,108 (100%)	6,943 (100%)

5. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of all Housing Register applicants allocated Council accommodation in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 is set out in the following table:

Ethnic Group	2011/2012	2012/13
White British/Irish	274 (77.6%)	281 (78.9%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	2 (0.6%)	2 (0.6%)
African/Caribbean	10 (2.8%)	4 (1.1%)
Mixed Race	4 (1.1%)	2 (0.6%)
Other	12 (3.4%)	12 (3.4%)
Not Stated	51 (14.5%)	55 (15.4%)
Total	353 (100%)	356 (100%)

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 2011/2012 and 2012/13.

Ethnic Group	2011/12	2012/13
White British/Irish	334 (83.3%)	359 (82%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	0	1 (0.2%)
African/Caribbean	2 (0.5%)	3 (0.7%)
Mixed Race	0	0
Other	8 (2.0%)	10 (2.3%)
Not Stated	57 (14.2%)	65 (14.8%)
Total	401 (100%)	438 (100%)

8. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated sheltered accommodation during both 2011/2012 and 2012/13 is set out in the following table:

Ethnic Group	2011/12	2012/13
White British/Irish	55 (80.9%)	54 (77.1%)
Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian	0	0
African/Caribbean	0	0
Mixed Race	0	0
Other	0	0
Not Stated	13 (19.1%)	16 (22.9%)
Total	68 (100%)	70 (100%)

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 2011):

Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage (%)
White: British/Irish	107,836	86.5
White: Other e.g. European etc.	5,033	4.04
Asian: Bangladeshi/Pakistani/Indian/Chinese/Sri Lankan	5,922	4.76
African/Caribbean	2,404	1.93
Mixed: Multiple Ethnic Groups in one household	2,649	2.12
Other non-British	815	0.65
Total	124,659	100

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.

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

Reason for decision:

Options considered and rejected:

Consultation undertaken:

Resource implications:

Budget provision:

Personnel:

Land:

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

Background papers:

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

Key Decision reference: (if required)