

Proposal 1: That applicants who are lacking 2 bedrooms be allowed to bid for homes 1 bedroom larger than their current home

- The Devon Home Choice Management Board have not currently agreed to this proposal and consider that any flexibility allowed should be provided in the advertising of individual properties.

Proposal 2: That a new question is added to Section 1 of the application form (Housing need criteria), and a corresponding indicator or banding on the application to identify applicants who are interested in Rent to Buy or Build to Rent properties.

- This was agreed in principle in principle by the Management Board.

Proposal 3: That 4 and 5 bedroom homes are advertised using the maximum number of occupants as a restriction rather than the bedroom need.

- This was agreed by the Devon Home Choice Management Board.

Proposal 4: That Band C for 'Children under 8 above the third floor' is not awarded in blocks of flats where improvement works have been carried out, including windows fitted with restrictors, which would mean that the flats would be suitable for households with children under 8.

- This was agreed in principle by the Devon Home Choice Management Board subject to a review of the current cases with this banding reason.

Proposal 5: That we allow some priority for members of household left in use & occupation after death of tenant and cannot succeed tenancy.

The proposal is agreed provided that the applicant has been resident at the property for 12 months and approaches the relevant local authority once Notice has been given, with an application made and the authority having confirmed that s188 duty to accommodate is triggered.

Proposal 6: That we review the current policy around the registering, banding and letting of properties to applicants who have rent arrears or have had rent arrears included in a DRO or bankruptcy.

- It is recommended that a sanction be applied in these case for a period of 2 years from the date of discharge of the debt.

Proposal 7: That paragraph 3.5.3.1 of the policy (Band B for severe overcrowding) be amended to refer to 2 people lacking a bedroom rather than 2 children).

- It is recommended that this proposal is agreed.

Proposal 8: That the reference to Category 1 hazards in the Band B reason for severe overcrowding be amended so that it is not a blanket award of Band B

- The recommendation from the group including EH colleagues was that there should be no change to the policy of awarding Band B to Cat 1 overcrowding hazards.