

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
LOCAL PLAN PART 1 EXAMINATION HEARING

INSPECTOR'S REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE COUNCIL

**INSPECTOR'S REQUEST:**

The Council to provide clarification as to how affordable housing is allocated through the Housing Register.

**COUNCIL'S RESPONSE:**

The Council has a housing allocations policy (HAP) which describes the mechanisms by which the council assesses applications to join the housing register and makes allocations for social housing within the district. Through the flexibilities introduced by the Localism Act 2012, the Council has adopted a policy which enables local people to access developments in their parish which still give due weight to the requirement to allocate housing in accordance with the reasonable preference categories.

The HAP ensures at least 20% of new build lettings are offered in the first instance to people with a strong local connection to that parish and who have a housing need as defined by the HAP. This is provided that 20% of the housing development results in at least one whole unit.

If there is no one that meets the criteria for that property, it can be offered to applicants who do meet the criteria and have a strong local connection to the neighbouring parishes. If there is no one who meets this criteria, the property will be offered to people with a local connection to the district. To determine this, applicants are asked on their application to list up to 6 parishes that they have a strong local connection to so that they can be considered for these properties.

In regards to the above, applicants still need to bid when the property is advertised and provide proof of a strong local connection.

The HAP defines a 'strong local connection' where either applicants have lived in the parish for five years out of the last 8 and are currently resident there or where the applicant(s) had previously lived in the parish for at least 5 years and their parents or children still live there and have done for at least 10 years

Further detail on the HAP, can be accessed using the following link:

<file:///C:/Users/robertsc/Downloads/South%20and%20Vale%20HAP%20APPROVED%20POLICY%202013-1.pdf>