

Our ref: E.7.2/EKW
Your ref: RW/ASch



LOUGHTON
TOWN COUNCIL

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane
Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ
Telephone: 020 8508 4200
Facsimile: 020 8508 4400
e-mail: contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk
Web site: www.loughton-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Enid K Walsh

Mr R Wilson
Assistant Director of Housing (Operations)
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
Epping
CM16 1BX

19 December 2014

Dear Roger

Review of the Council's Housing Allocations and Tenancy Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this consultation. The Town Council considered the draft documents at its meeting on 17 December 2014 and makes the following comments.

Housing Allocation Scheme

Item 14.3, page 6, Residency Criteria:

The Council welcomed the increase in local residency requirements from 3 to 5 years.

Item 14.7 page 7, Financial Criteria:

The Council considered that the new threshold of £76,000 was too low.

Item 18.9, page 10, Penalty for Refusals of Offers of Accommodation:

The Council supported the revised deferral period of twelve months.

Tenancy Policy

Item 3.10, final bullet point, page 5, Flexible (fixed-term) Tenancy:

Having already expressed an opinion that the revised financial criteria threshold shown in the Housing Allocation Scheme (item 14.7) was set too low, members were unhappy with the implications of this section for those existing tenants whose situation may have improved during their tenancy.

Item 7.2, page 10, Introductory Potentially Secure Flexible (fixed-term) Tenancies:

Noting that secure tenancies encouraged the building of strong local communities, members were unable to support this new section which could lead to uncertainty.

Please let me know if any of these comments need further explanation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enid', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Enid K Walsh
Town Clerk