

Appendix B Allocations Policy Consultation Comments

Comment	CoLC response
It may make it more difficult for ex-offenders to find accommodation	Social housing is not the only accommodation available. Any person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days can approach their local authority for help and advice. A personalised housing plan will be completed, and several types of housing may be available for the person to consider. The Council works with private landlords to provide a deposit guarantee scheme and has recently secured funding via the Rough Sleeper Initiative to work with private landlords and secure a better offer for those at risk of rough sleeping.
It would be good if all Lincolnshire had the same policy	<p>Each local authority needs to frame its allocations policy to comply with legislation. This broadly means that the people in most housing need are prioritised for accommodation. However, under the Localism Act 2011, a local authority can frame its scheme to reflect local housing markets and demand.</p> <p>Lincolnshire is a primarily rural county but has a large coastline and the pressures of small towns and a city. Each authority has a different stock profile and demand; therefore, the same policy would not be suitable for all. Therefore, CoLC and NKDC will be introducing policies that are broadly similar but have some differences based on local need and demand.</p>
Currently waiting for up to a year in Band 1 to get accommodation	The majority of CoLC applicants placed in Band 1 are direct matched to the next suitable offer of accommodation. In an isolated case where a specific property type is required it may take several months to secure a suitable property, but this is the exception and not the norm.
Change may mean that supported housing providers cannot comply with LCC contract	Social housing is not the only housing option for people moving out of hostel accommodation. As a result of the Avenue placing people in Lincoln from Lincolnshire, many households ready to move on from supported housing do not have a local connection with the city. If they wish to remain in the city, they could look to secure accommodation in the private rented sector.
Could this mean that people with a local connection to the area could remain homeless	Any person who has a local connection with Lincoln and whom the Council has a full duty to secure suitable accommodation will be accommodated within the city. In line with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, this accommodation may not be social housing but could be accommodation within the private rented sector.
People should be offered help to return to their own area	In line with the provisions of the Homelessness Reduction Act, any person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness will receive assistance to return to the area they have a connection with
Sofa surfing should be classed as homeless	Any person sofa surfing can approach the local authority for help and advice as they are normally at risk of homelessness within 56 days.

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Where do care leavers live until they are 18	A young person in the care of Lincolnshire County Council will remain in their care until their 18th birthday. LCC has several accommodation projects for young people and some children may be living with foster carers until they are ready to live independently.
Separated parents: one parent may not be able to go on the waiting list which means they won't be able to live close to their children	Unfortunately, the high demand for social housing in the city means that we cannot offer every person accommodation. This means that if a person wants to move from another area to be closer to children, they will normally need to look to secure accommodation within the private rented sector unless their circumstances are exceptional.