

## FAQ's

# Review of Leicester City Council's Housing Allocations Policy

You can complete the survey online at [www.leicester.gov.uk/allocations](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/allocations)

### Q. What is the Housing Allocations Policy?

The Council is required by law to have a housing allocations scheme which shows the Council's priorities for allocating homes and procedures they follow in allocating those homes.

### Q. Why is the Council changing the Housing Allocations Policy?

The introduction of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 has made changes to housing benefit which will impact on social tenants (council and housing association tenants) from 1 April 2013. The changes will mean tenants of a working age will only receive housing benefit according to the number of bedrooms a household needs.

The Council's current Housing Allocations Policy is more generous in the allocation of bedrooms than the bedroom criteria used for housing benefit purposes. The Council is proposing that people on the Council's Housing Register will only be allocated the number of bedrooms which would be covered under housing benefit rules.

This will reduce the risk of financial hardship to prospective tenants due to shortfalls in housing benefit.

### Q. If I am under-occupying my current home and in receipt of full housing benefit, how will I be affected?

If you are of working age and are under-occupying your home by one bedroom, housing benefit will be reduced by 14% of your current rent or if you are under-occupying by 2 or more bedrooms, housing benefit will be reduced by 25%.

**For example**, if you live in a 3 bedroom house and your current weekly rent is £75.00 and you only need 2 bedrooms according to the housing benefit bedroom criteria, housing benefit will be reduced by 14% of the £75 rent – a reduction of £10.50 per week.



## **Q. What are the main changes the Council are proposing to make?**

Some of the major proposed changes include:

- Changing the current bedroom eligibility criteria
- No longer give an additional bedroom to people who have part week overnight access to children
- Giving higher priority to social tenants who are under-occupying their homes

## **Q. Where can I find out more?**

Full details of the proposed changes are available on the Council's website [www.leicester.gov.uk/allocations](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/allocations) where you can have your say on the proposed changes.

## **Q. How can I take part in the consultation?**

You can do this by completing the online questionnaire at [www.leicester.gov.uk/allocations](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/allocations) or you can request a paper copy of the questionnaire by contacting the Housing Options Service on (0116) 252 7008 or by sending an email to [housingoptions@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@leicester.gov.uk)

## **Q. When does the consultation period start and end?**

The consultation will start on 21 August 2012 and end on 2 October 2012.

## **Q. When are the changes likely to be implemented?**

Once the consultation period has ended, we will then consider all the comments we have received. The Council's Executive will discuss the comments and make a decision about the proposed changes. If the changes are agreed the new policy will be implemented at the earliest opportunity.