

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 3 OCTOBER 2017

Recommendations from the Cabinet Housing Panel on 18 September 2017:-

Housing Allocation Policy

The Panel considered the report of the Executive Director (Housing and Communities) which explained that the Council's Housing Allocation Policy set out the rules for the Council's Housing Needs Register (HNR) and how priority was awarded to households, based on their housing need. The HNR was a list of all applicants looking for affordable, rented and low cost home ownership accommodation in the Borough reflecting issues such as overcrowding, health problems and homelessness.

The Housing and Planning Act 2016 came into force on 12 May 2016 and introduced numerous changes to housing law and planning law, mainly intended to promote homeownership and boost levels of housebuilding in England. A key element of this was the introduction of a Pay to Stay policy for Council tenants.

As a result of this policy, a review of the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme commenced. Whilst the Government later amended the Pay to Stay policy, the review was already underway and it was agreed to continue with this as other proposed changes were put forward for consideration.

The Cabinet Housing Panel had considered the proposals for further changes to the current Housing Allocations Policy and these were approved for wider consultation which had now taken place.

The Cabinet Panel recommends the Cabinet to approve the proposed changes to the Policy for adoption by the Council.