**APPENDIX 2** 

# Consultation on Policies to Meet Housing Need in the Borough



### Consultation deadline 29th January 2017

Please take the time to fill in the questionnaire and return it by FREE POST (no stamp required) to:

RTJK-BZBZ-LASY FREEPOST Housing Strategy and Commissioning Service 6th Floor, River Park House 225 High Road London N22 8HQ



### What are we consulting on?

### Four policies

The Council is consulting on four important policies to meet housing need in the borough:

- Homelessness Strategy and Delivery Plan
- Tenancy Strategy
- Allocations Scheme
- Intermediate Housing Policy

These new or updated policies are being proposed in response to:

- The increasing demand for affordable housing in the borough.
- The insufficient supply of affordable homes to meet that demand.
- Major changes in national legislation e.g. the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which have created further challenges.
- The commitments we have made in our new Housing Strategy.

#### The new Housing Strategy

Our new Housing Strategy defines the vision and objectives we have for housing in the borough, including our aspirations for increasing housing supply, preventing homelessness, improving existing homes and ensuring housing delivers wider community benefits.

We are facing tough choices, as government policies and market forces are making it harder to meet the need for affordable housing in the borough. The Housing Strategy makes clear that we will have to focus more on preventing homelessness and make difficult decisions on who is offered our remaining affordable homes. We plan to prioritise our limited social rented homes for those in greatest need and assist those most able to find alternative housing, to do so. Our commitment to stable communities and settled homes is undermined by the government's introduction of mandatory fixed term tenancies, which means we must amend our Tenancy Strategy in response to these changes . We are also looking again at who is offered new intermediate homes, such as shared ownership, which costs more than social rented housing but less than market housing. We aim to ensure that intermediate housing provides an alternative to social rented housing for households on higher incomes, but who cannot afford homes on the open market.

In order to implement our new Housing Strategy, we are bringing forward a range of new policies and delivery plans, including the four policies covered in this consultation.

The Housing Strategy can be viewed at: www.haringey.gov.uk/draft\_housing\_strategy\_2017-2022.pdf

### Our new approach to meeting housing need

Taken together, the four policies covered in this consultation propose our overall approach to meeting housing need in the borough. The main elements of our new approach are:

- Preventing homelessness at the earliest opportunity.
- Reducing the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation, whilst improving the temporary housing we still need to use.
- Reducing rough sleeping.
- Granting lifetime tenancies in Council homes, in the restricted circumstances where this remains possible under the new Act.
- Granting the longest fixed term tenancies allowed under the new Act.
- Extending fixed term tenancies on their expiry, except where the tenant's household is under-occupying their home or has a higher income, which would trigger a review by the Council of whether a new tenancy should be granted.
- Changing our policy for allocating social rented homes, for example to give greater priority to overcrowded households and those under occupying their home.
- Reviewing who is allocated sheltered housing.
- Reviewing what accommodation we should provide for single people aged under 35, given national policy changes which mean that this group will only receive housing benefit sufficient for shared accommodation.
- Introducing new rules which would prevent households on higher incomes or with large savings from joining the Housing Register (the waiting list for social rented homes).
- Introducing a new Intermediate Housing Policy which sets out who will be allocated intermediate housing, such as shared ownership. It is proposed that the top priority group will include existing social tenants (which would release a social rented home for households on the Housing Register).

Please tell us what you think about the four policies and the new approach they propose.



### Why are we consulting?

We are consulting because the views of our residents, partners and stakeholders are very important to us, and will be used to improve these four new policies before they are submitted to the Council's Cabinet for final approval, taking into account your views. We also have various legal duties to consult on these policies.

### What do you think about our overall approach?

Please tell us what you think about our overall approach to meeting housing need in the borough by answering the question below.

1a. The four policy documents covered by this consultation, propose a new approach to meeting housing need in the borough. Do you agree with the overall approach the Council is proposing?



Disagree

No opinion

1b. Do you have any comments on our overall approach?

Consultation on Policies to Meet Housing Need in the Brouth

# Homelessness Strategy and Delivery Plan

The Council is required to publish a Homelessness Strategy for the borough and the latest draft version (which we have called 'Homelessness Strategy and Delivery Plan') is available at www.haringey.gov.uk/draft\_homelessness\_delivery\_plan.pdf

This document has been produced in partnership with the Haringey Homelessness Forum, which includes a wide range of local organisations involved in advising, supporting and accommodating homeless people

You will see that our new draft Homelessness Strategy and Delivery Plan (the Plan) includes 2 main sections:

- (1) Homelessness Review to assess the nature and extent of homelessness in Haringey.
- (2) Action Plan with 71 actions, which represent the activities and interventions needed to prevent homelessness and assist people who are or may become homeless in the borough.

The Action Plan is organised under 3 priorities as follows:

- a) Prevention of homelessness, including:
  - Helping households retain their current home.
  - Helping households find an alternative home, particularly in the private rented sector.
  - Enabling vulnerable households to secure independence through supported housing pathways.
- b) Tackling temporary accommodation challenges, including:
  - Measures to reduce the numbers of households in temporary accommodation.
  - Improving the supply of temporary accommodation.
  - Ensuring homeless households in temporary accommodation gain access to suitable permanent homes.
- c) Reducing rough sleeping, including:
  - Identifying those most at risk to help avoid them sleeping rough.
  - Enabling access to support services for rough sleepers with multiple needs.
  - Reviewing the levels of emergency provision.

Please tell us what you think about the plan by answering the questions below. If you have time to read the whole plan and then respond that would be very helpful, but if you have just have time to suggest things you think the plan should include from your experience that would also be helpful.

2a. Do you think that the extent and causes of homelessness in the borough have been correctly assessed in the plan?

🗋 Yes 🔄 No 🔄 No opinion

).	Are there any particular homelessness issues you think the Council should take into account?
•	Do you think the assessment of housing supply and demand in the plan is fair and reasonables Yes No No opinion
	Are there any particular issues affecting housing supply and demand in the borough, that you think the Council should take into account?
	Do you think the plan has accurately assessed the impact of homelessness demand in the borough, for example the amount of temporary accommodation required and the support homeless households need in moving on to a settled home?
	Yes No No opinion From your experience, what is the impact of homelessness in the borough?
	Do you think the plan correctly analyses rough sleeping in the borough and includes actions which will reduce it?
	Yes No No opinion
	Do you think there are any particular factors causing rough sleeping in the borough or actions which may reduce it?
	Does the plan include the right priorities?
	Yes No Dinion
	What priorities do you think the plan should include?
	Does the plan include the right actions to deliver our priorities?
	Yes No No opinion
	What actions do you think the plan should include?

# **Tenancy Strategy**

The Council is required to publish a Tenancy Strategy, which sets out the Council's policies on the kind of tenancies it grants, the length of those tenancies and the circumstances in which the Council will grant further tenancies. The Council's Tenancy Strategy should also set out what the Council expects other local social housing providers to take into account when setting their tenancy policies.

In accordance with its current Tenancy Strategy, the Council grants life time tenancies when Council homes are let. This reflects the Council's commitment to providing stable homes for individual tenants and promoting sustainable communities.

The government's new Housing and Planning Act 2016 requires local authorities to introduce fixed term tenancies with very few exceptions. At the end of a fixed term tenancy, local authorities must now decide whether :

- To grant a new fixed term tenancy for the same property.
- To grant a new fixed term tenancy for an alternative property.
- To not grant a new fixed term tenancy.

Whilst the Government has not yet published its detailed regulations on fixed term tenancies, the Council's proposed broad approach, is to:

- a) Grant the maximum length of tenancy allowed.
- b) At the end of a fixed term tenancy to normally grant a new tenancy on the same property however, in some circumstances, a review will be triggered where the tenant's household:
  - is under-occupying their home and could move to smaller accommodation in which case the tenancy of a smaller property may be offered or
  - has a higher income and could access alternative accommodation, for example shared ownership or other intermediate housing (see below).

A full description of the changes being proposed to the Tenancy Strategy can be viewed at: www.haringey.gov.uk/consultation\_tenancy\_strategy.pdf

(Please ignore any references to 'Pay to Stay' in this document because the Government has now withdrawn its 'Pay to Stay' proposals, which would have required local authorities to charge market rents for Council tenants on higher incomes).

Please tell us what you think about the broad approach we are proposing to take by answering the questions below.

- 8. Under new legislation, the Council is only permitted to grant lifetime tenancies in restricted circumstances. Do you agree that the Council should continue granting lifetime tenancies where possible?
  - Agree

Disagree No opinion

9. Where the Council is only allowed to grant a new fixed term tenancy, do you agree that the Council should give tenants the longest possible fixed term tenancy?

Agree 🔄 Disagree 🗔 No opinion

Consultation on Policies to Meet Housing Need in the Borough

- 10a. When a fixed term tenancy ends and the tenant is under occupying their home by one or more bedrooms, the Council is proposing to consider whether to grant a new fixed term tenancy, but only of a smaller property?
  - 🗌 Agree

Disagree No opinion

- 10b. Do you think there are any exceptional circumstances where a household under-occupying their home should be granted a new fixed term tenancy for the property they are currently living in?
  - Yes No Dopinion
- 10c. If yes please tick one or more of the boxes next to the examples below: Place a tick ☑ in any of the examples you think should apply or please give us other examples:

Additional bedroom required for medical reasons	
Additional bedroom required for live in carer	
Additional bedroom required for adult children visiting	
Other (please specify)	

11a. When a fixed term tenancy ends, the Council is proposing to consider whether a new fixed term tenancy should be granted where the tenant's household income exceeds the income thresholds set out in the table below:

Bedroom size	Income Threshold
1 bedroom	£33,000
2 bedroom	£42,200
3 bedroom	£52,000
4 bedroom	£64 <b>,</b> 200

Do you agree with this proposal?

Agree

Disagree 🗌 No opinion

11b. If income is used to determine whether a new fixed term tenancy is granted, what do you think the threshold should be?

Please tick 🗹 the box next to the statement(s) you agree with:

Please insert gross annual income you agree with	£
I think that the income threshold should be	
There should be no income threshold	
The income thresholds in the table above should be lower	
The income thresholds in the table above should be higher	
The income thresholds in the table above are right	

Do you think there are any exceptional circumstances where a household on an income 11c. higher than the threshold should be granted a new fixed term tenancy?

Yes No No No opinion

If yes please tick any of the examples below or tell us if you think there are other 11d. exceptional circumstances:

Please tick 🗹 any of the examples you agree with:	
Household includes a person with a disability	
Household includes a person with a serious physical medical problem	
Household includes a person with a severe mental health need	
Household includes a child preparing to take important exams	
Household includes a person experiencing domestic violence	
Other (please specify below)	



## **Allocations Scheme**

The Council is required by law to have a housing Allocations Scheme, which shows how the Council decides who will have priority for housing, and the procedures that will be used in allocating homes the Council lets directly or can nominate to.

The Council is proposing a range of changes to its Allocations Scheme in order to give greatest priority to those in most need, respond to government policy changes and introduce greater fairness in the rehousing of tenants who are affected by estate renewal schemes. The main changes being proposed are:

- 1. To Introduce an income threshold for households wanting to join the Housing Register (for social rented housing).
- 2. To introduce a £100,000 savings threshold for households wanting to join the Housing Register (for social rented housing).
- 3. To change the definition of a household who can register for housing, by limiting households who can apply to immediate family only.
- 4. To change the criteria for who is allocated sheltered housing, by raising the age threshold to state retirement age and/or increasing the threshold for the level of support required.
- 5. To review the housing needs bands used to prioritise households on the Housing Register, in particular, to give higher priority to overcrowded households and those under-occupying their home.
- 6. To consider different options for the type of accommodation and provision we make for single people aged under 35, in response to the national policy change which means that this group will now only receive housing benefit sufficient for shared accommodation.
- 7. To only make one 'direct offer' of permanent housing to accepted homeless households and people being housed under a special re-housing quota. (A 'direct offer' is an offer made by the Council, rather than the applicant bidding for a property they have chosen from properties advertised under the Council's Choice Based Lettings system).
- 8. To prioritise the re-housing of Council tenants being moved as a result of an estate renewal schemes, based on how long they have been a tenant.

A full description of the changes being proposed to the Allocations Scheme can be viewed at **www.haringey.gov.uk/consultation\_allocations\_scheme.pdf** (Please ignore any references to 'Pay to Stay' in this document because the Government has now withdrawn its 'Pay to Stay' proposals, which would have required local authorities to charge market rents for Council tenants on higher incomes).

Please tell us what you think about these changes by answering the questions below.

12a. Do you agree with the proposal that a household cannot register on the Council's waiting list for rented accommodation if they have an income above the thresholds set out in the table below?

Bedroom size	Income Threshold
1 bedroom	£33,000
2 bedroom	£42,200
3 bedroom	£52,000
4 bedroom	£64,200
Yes	No No opinior

12b. If income is used to determine whether a household can register on the waiting list for rented accommodation, what do you think the income thresholds should be?

 Please tick ☑ the box next to the statement(s) you agree with:

 The income thresholds in the table above are right

 The income thresholds in the table above should be higher The

 income thresholds in the table above should be lower There

 should be no income threshold

 I think that the income threshold should be

 Please insert gross annual income you agree with

- 12c. Do you agree with the proposal to also have a savings threshold of £100,000 above which households cannot register on the Councils waiting list for rented accommodation?
  - Yes No No opinion
- 12d. If a savings threshold is used to determine whether a household can register on the waiting list for rented accommodation, what do you think the savings threshold should be?

Please tick 🗹 the box next to the statement(s) you agree with:

£100,000 is the right threshold

The savings threshold should be higher

The savings threshold should be lower

There should be no savings threshold

I think that the savings threshold should be

No

Please insert gross annual income you agree with

12e. Do you think that there are some people who should be exempt from the thresholds and still be allowed to register, even if they have a higher income or large amount of savings?

£



No opinion

12f. If yes please tick any of the examples below you agree with or tell us if you think there are other exceptional circumstances:

Please tick 🗹 any of the examples you agree with:	
Household includes a person with a disability	
Household includes a person with a serious physical medical problem	
Household includes a person with a severe mental health need	
Household includes a child preparing to take important exams	
Household includes a person experiencing domestic violence	
Other (please specify below)	

12g. Do you have any comments on the proposed income and savings thresholds?

13. Do you agree with the proposal to change the definition of a household to include only husband, wife or civil partner and sons and/or daughters?

Yes No

No opinion

14a. Do you agree with the proposal of giving greater priority to households on the Housing Register who are overcrowded and to place all households who are under-occupying their home, no matter what the size, in band A?

Yes No No opinion

14b. Are there other groups which you think should be given greater priority? Please tick one or more of the groups you agree with below:

Council or housing association tenants seeking a transfer for reasons other than overcrowding e.g. medical reasons Homeless households

Young people leaving care

Vulnerable adults ready for independent living

People in the armed forces

Other (please specify below)

None, the current housing needs bands are right

15a. In response to the Government's new shared room rate, which means that single people under 35 can only receive housing benefit sufficient for a room in shared accommodation, which of the following options do you think the Council should adopt?

Please tick which option you prefer:

#### Option 1

Removing all under single person households aged under 35 from the Housing Register, and giving them advice about finding private rented accommodation – e.g. a room in a shared house.

#### Option 2

The Council letting some of its accommodation as shared housing, where applicants under the age of 35 are allocated one room in a shared house; and that rents are charged per room.

#### Option 3

The Council setting aside all one bedroom accommodation with low rents (that is below the shared room rate) and giving single people aged under 35 priority for this accommodation over other applicants.

15b. Do you have comments on the options above?

16a.	We are proposing to only make one 'direct offer' of reasonable accommodation to homeless
	households, and those who are being housed through a quota (for example, when they are
	moving on from supported housing). Under this proposal, these applicants would no longer
	be able to bid for properties. If the one proposed 'direct offer' is not accepted, then the
	applicant may be told that they will have to make their own arrangements.

	Under our existing Estate Renewal, Rehousing and Payments Policy, Council te whose homes are being demolished will be placed in the highest re-housing ba A) from a single date. We are now proposing that tenants will be placed in Bar a date that matches their tenancy start date. This means that tenants, who h on the estate the longest, will be given a higher priority for re-housing.	and (Band nd A from
	Agree Disagree No opinion	
	We propose to change the criteria for sheltered housing to ensure that those m it have a need for support and are generally in the older age group, such as the retirement age. Which of the possible options below do you think the Council s adopt?	iose over
	Please tick which option you prefer:	
	Raise the age threshold to state retirement age and ensure a higher threshold is set for the level of support required;	
,	Remove the age threshold completely and operate an entirely needs-based system, which would require existing sheltered housing schemes to be designated differently from the current arrangements.	
	Other (please specify)	

(Broadly any person or couple over the age of 50 can currently apply for sheltered housing)

# **Intermediate Housing Policy**

### We are proposing this new policy, which describes how we will allocate Intermediate Housing.

The full Intermediate Housing Policy we are proposing can be viewed at www.haringey.gov.uk/draft\_intermediate\_housing\_policy.pdf

Intermediate Housing is a form of housing, which costs more than social housing, but less than open market housing. There are a number of different types of Intermediate Housing. Shared Ownership is the best known, where someone will buy a part of the property (say 35%) and rent the remainder. It costs less than open market housing, and can be afforded by people with gross annual incomes ranging from £30,000 to not more than £90,000 (where people are considered to be able to afford to buy open market housing). Another type of Intermediate Housing is Intermediate Rent housing, with rents above social housing rents, but below market rents.

This policy proposes who would be eligible for Intermediate Housing (and could join a new register for this type of housing) and which groups would receive priority for being allocated homes provided as Intermediate Housing.

Please tell us what you think about who should be eligible and given priority by answering the questions below.

- 19a. We propose to adopt the same eligibility criteria as the Greater London Authority for households wishing to register with the Council for intermediate housing. In summary, these are:
  - Earning no more than £90,000 per annum.
  - Being unable to buy a home (suitable for the households needs) on the open market.
  - Not already being a home owner.

Do you agree with these eligibility criteria?



Our new policy proposes that the following households should receive priority for intermediate housing:

**1st Priority:** Haringey social housing tenants, including residents in temporary accommodation who the Council has a duty to house, and military personnel who have served within the last 5 years.

**2nd Priority:** Haringey residents affected by a regeneration scheme, both tenants and leaseholders.

**3rd Priority:** Other Haringey residents.

**4th Priority:** Households working in Haringey.

**5th Priority:** Households living in any other London borough.

These priorities are proposed in order to give top priority to existing social housing tenants (which would release a social rented home to a household on the Housing Register), homeless households in temporary accommodation and military personnel. The second priority group includes residents whose homes are being demolished as part of an estate renewal scheme. The third and fourth priority groups give preference to others living or working in Haringey.

If there are two or more households in the same priority group, then the household with the LOWEST income, who can afford the scheme, will be offered it. What we mean by being able to afford a scheme is that a household should be spending no more than 45% of their net income on housing costs.

20a. Do you agree with these priorities?

📕 Agree 👘 🛄 Disagree 🛄 No opinion

- 20b. Do you have any comments on the priorities?
- 20c. Do you think that there should be discretion to give extra priority in exceptional cases?

🔄 Yes 🔄 No 🔄 No opinion

20d. If you answered yes, please tick one or more boxes next to the examples below or tell us if you think there are other exceptional circumstances :

Households which include a person experiencing domestic violence	
Households threatened with homelessness	
Households which include a person with physical disability	
Other (please specify)	

# **Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form**

We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete and return this form.

By collecting information on diversity, it helps us better understand the profile and characteristics of those living and using services provided by Haringey Council. We have a duty to pay due regard in all our actions, operations and decisions to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunities and foster good relations between all groups of people.

The information you provide on this form is non-attributable to individuals and will be held in the strictest confidence to be used only for the purpose stated above.

Please go through it and tick all the categories that most accurately describe you.

If you live in Haringey are you? 1) A Haringey Council (Homes for Haringey) A private tenant tenant An owner-occupier or leaseholder (with or A Haringey Council (Homes for Haringey) without mortgage) leaseholder Shared owner A housing association tenant On the Councils housing register A housing association leaseholder Waiting for or interested in Shared Living in temporary accommodation Ownership Living in sheltered housing Other housing situation Living in supported housing

If you have ticked "Other Housing Situation", please tell us what it is in the box below

2) Are you responding as, or on behalf of? (tick all that apply)

- Someone who works in Haringey
- A Haringey Council councillor or a local Member of Parliament
- A Haringey Council or Homes for Haringey member of staff
- A housing association
- A Voluntary or Community organisation
- A tenant or resident group
- A private landlord
- A private developer

 further education college, school or university
 A business umbrella organisation, for example, Chamber of Commerce

An education provider, for example

- A statutory health organisation, for example, Clinical Commissioning Group, hospital
- Other statutory body, for example
   Jobcentre Plus, Greater London
   Authority, Department for Work and
   Pensions
- 🔄 Other

If you have ticked "Other", please use the box below to explain:

Disability         In order to be able to identify and respond to specific needs, it is important that we gain a understanding of disabilities and long-term conditions.         Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted or expected to last least 12 months?         No disabilities       Physical disability         Mental ill health       Learning di         What is your country of birth?         Ethnicity (Please tick the box that best describes your ethnic group).         White       Black / African / Caribbean / Black / African         British       Irish         Irish       Caribbean         Any other white background,       Any other Black / African / Caribbear	
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🗌 White and Black African 📃 Bangladeshi	
White and Asian Chinese	
Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background, please write in below:Any other Asian / Asian British ethr background, please write in below:	
Any other ethnic group	
Arab	
Any other ethnic group please write in below:	

		ed as (Please tic	k one option)	
Male	Female	Intersex	I prefer not	to say
Which of the fol	llowing deso	cribes how you	think of yourse	elf? (Please tick one option)
Male	Female	In another	way please write	in below:
What is your rel	igion? (Pleas	se tick as approp	oriate).	
No religion			🗌 Hind	lu
			Jewi	sh
•	estant and a	ll other	Mus	lim
	s)		🗌 Sikh	
Buddhist				
Any other religior	n, please writ	te in below:		
Which of the fol	llowing opti	ions best descr	ibes how you th	nink of yourself?
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Other	5			
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	<ul> <li>Male</li> <li>Male</li> <li>What is your rel</li> <li>No religion</li> <li>Christian (inclestic)</li> <li>Christian (inclestic)</li> <li>Buddhist</li> <li>Any other religion</li> <li>Which of the for</li> <li>Heterosexual</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Male</li> <li>Female</li> <li>What is your religion? (Please</li> <li>No religion</li> <li>Christian (including Church Catholic, Protestant and a Christian denominations)</li> <li>Buddhist</li> <li>Any other religion, please write</li> <li>Which of the following option</li> <li>Which of the following option</li> </ul>	Male       Female       In another         What is your religion? (Please tick as approp         No religion         Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other         Christian denominations)         Buddhist         Any other religion, please write in below:         Which of the following options best descr         Heterosexual or straight	What is your religion? (Please tick as appropriate).         No religion       Hinc         Christian (including Church of England, catholic, Protestant and all other       Jewi         Christian (including Church of England, denominations)       Sikh         Buddhist       Sikh         Which of the following options best describes how you the

### Thank you for completing and returning this form

Consultation on Policies to Meet Housing Need in the Borough

Please take the time to fill in the questionnaire and return it by FREE POST (no stamp required) to:

RTJK-BZBZ-LASY FREEPOST Housing Strategy and Commissioning Service 6th Floor, River Park House 225 High Road London N22 8HQ

or scan your answers and email them to housing.strategy@haringey.gov.uk

If you prefer, you can fill in the questionnaire online at: www.haringey.gov.uk/meetinghousingneed

If you have questions about this consultation, or you would like extra copies of the questionnaire or full draft policy please email **housing.strategy@haringey.gov.uk**.

