

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is City of Lincoln Council's housing allocations policy?

The housing allocations policy sets out who is eligible to be considered for social housing by the City of Lincoln Council, how their housing needs will be assessed, and what relative priority their application will be given.

It also determines how Lincoln's housing register or waiting list will work and how social housing in the city will be allocated and let.

2. Why is the council proposing changes to its housing allocations policy?

Under the Localism Act 2011, councils were given more freedom to decide who can and cannot join their housing registers and who can be allocated social housing. Since that time, the Government has set out a number of new regulations which councils must incorporate into their policies. City of Lincoln Council also believes that the demands placed upon social housing have also changed in recent years, and a more fundamental reassessment and revision of the policy is needed.

Fundamentally, the council believes it is now time to undertake the review of its current policy to make sure that social housing is offered to those with the highest housing needs whilst also meeting the needs of local people.

3. What are the main changes the council is proposing to make?

City of Lincoln Council is proposing to:

- Reduce the number of bands from four to three by removing Band D.
 - Introducing a Transfer band for current CoLC tenants who are not eligible for Band 1 status, wishing to transfer. 25% of properties will be advertised with a preference for existing Council tenants wishing to transfer
- Consider what level of financial resources should make certain households ineligible to join the housing register, because they have sufficient assets and/or income to be able to source their own housing options.
- any household whose homelessness is prevented by way of a private rented sector offer will normally retain their position on the housing register to enable them to wait for an offer of social housing in the area of their choice
- to introduce a Residency Qualification of 2 years residency in Lincoln immediately prior to application and for the applicants current address to be within the CoLC area.

4. How will the changes affect me if I am in Bands 1, 2 or 3?

Unless your personal circumstances change or the reason for your rehousing is for a reason where the banding status has changed, it is expected that the majority of households in Bands 1 and 2 will remain in those bands. Households in Band 3 and 4 may be affected.

5. How will the changes affect me if I am in Band 4?

Your application will be placed in Band 3 and your application reviewed in line with the new policy if your circumstances change; you place a bid which is considered for offer; at the 12 month review or with any other contact with the Housing Service

8. How can I comment on the proposals being made?

The council is holding a statutory consultation for residents and organisations to provide their views and comments. You can find details at <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/council/city-lincoln-councils-housing-allocations-policy>