



Annex to the Housing Allocations Policy

Approved November 2020



1. Introduction

This Annex to the Housing Allocations Policy outlines technical changes to the policy approved by the Housing and Communities Committee in November 2020 and outlines a timetable for a full review and update of the policy which will be carried out.

2. No Home for Domestic Abuse

“No Home for Domestic Abuse” is the Council’s zero tolerance policy approach to domestic abuse occurring within our properties. It provides victims/survivors of domestic abuse with access to practical help, legal assistance and support to allow them to remain in their home, if this is what they want.

The current Allocations Policy was approved prior to “No Home for Domestic Abuse” being established. To fully align the policy with this approach and to support victims to stay in their own homes and to make them feel safe, our Allocations Policy requires a flexibility to address the housing needs of perpetrators.

Council tenants who are victims of domestic abuse are offered a range of housing advice based on their circumstances to support them.

This includes:

- Supporting victims to remain in their own home – including transferring the tenancy into their own name where possible. Support includes making the victim feels safe and security measures such as lock changes;
- Supporting victims to gain legal information and advice;
- Supporting victims to access specialist domestic abuse support; and
- Providing suitable alternative safe and secure accommodation via the Homeless and Housing Options Service.

The Council:

- will use the full scope of Anti-Social Behaviour powers in conjunction with Housing and Matrimonial Homes Legislation to legally remove perpetrators if we need to;
- recognises that in order to support victims to stay in their own homes and to make them feel safer we must also address the housing needs of perpetrators. Those found guilty of committing domestic abuse will be offered short-term or permanent tenancies dependant on their circumstances and appropriately distanced from the victim.

This is in line with the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill, which if passed by Parliament will allow social landlords to end or transfer a tenancy of a perpetrator of domestic abuse to prevent a victim becoming homeless and enabling them to remain in the family home.

3. New Build for Specific Needs

The Council is committed to delivering new housing as part of our More Homes West Dunbartonshire approach. Where the complex specific needs of a household cannot be met via the existing housing stock and construction of a specialist property is agreed as part of the new-build programme, the property may be pre-allocated prior to completion at the discretion of a Senior Housing Manager to ensure that these specific identified needs are met.

4. Allocations Policy Review

The Housing and Communities Committee agreed the current Housing Allocations Policy in November 2017, following the implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014.

It was agreed that a full review of the policy would take place in 3 years, however the Covid-19 pandemic delayed this work and the following timetable for a full review and update of the policy was agreed in November 2020:

	End Date
Research and pre consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish working groups for each section to be reviewed• Interim Committee Paper for November outlining changes and timeframes• Carry out consultation on any proposed changes	Oct/Nov 2020
Develop drafts of any areas being refreshed and share with working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use consultation feedback to shape review	Dec 2020 – Mar 2021
Review of Allocation Policy Review report to Housing and Communities Committee	May 2021