Housing Allocations Scheme 2016 – key changes

- Change from an open housing register to a local connection criteria of five years residency to be on the register (from the previous two years to a maximum award of BAND C), with a number of exemptions
- Exclude people with no housing need
- Exclude home owners (with some exceptions)
- Introduce an income/savings cap based on bedroom size
- Exclude people with history of anti-social behaviour, rent arrears or other related debt to the council, with some exceptions
- Remove the working positive contribution policy, following a recent judicial review against another local authority
- Exclude people who have disposed of a property purchased from the council under the right to buy
- Remove applicants if they have not made a bid within 12 months
- Remove applicants who refuse two offer of suitable accommodation (one offer policy for direct bids still apply and case will be reassessed if property is refused).
- Sheltered Applicants three offers (downsizing tenant not refusal limit)
- Remove Band C minor medical, sharing facilities and minor disrepair categories
- Introduce anti-fraud checks prior to offering a tenancy
- Introduce a digital service for applications and other processes
- Introduce an allocation plan – ie 40% homeless in TA, 30% transfers, 20% general homeless and 10% council interests (social services, etc)
- Introduce reciprocal agreements with other local authorities to allow increase social mobility
- Introduce Band C Mobility for applicant requiring mobility move who are not living in a Mobility property.
- Increase in Quota arrangement for Children's service and introduce quota for Adult Social Care.

These are the major changes to the Allocations Policy. There have been other changes and clarifications in the new policy.

Brighton & Hove City Council