

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

Committee: Communities Overview Committee

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING - PLEASE USE THE LINK ON THE AGENDA TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING

Members of the public will be able to listen to this meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/communitiesoverviewcommittee28october2020/>

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You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Communities Overview Committee

Cecilia Motley (Chairman)	Roger Hughes
Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman)	Vivienne Parry
Clare Aspinall	Keith Roberts
Ted Clarke	Leslie Winwood
Nigel Hartin	Tina Woodward

Your Committee Officer is:

Julie Fildes Tel: 01743 257723 Email: Julie.Fildes@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for absence and substitutions

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2020 (Pages 1 - 2)

To consider the Minutes of the Communities Overview Committee meeting held on 24th February 2020. [Attached]

4 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 2.00pm Monday 26th October 2020.

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions of which members of the Council have given notice. Deadline for notification for this meeting is 4.30pm Friday 23rd October 2020.

6 Support for People Sleeping Rough in Shropshire (Pages 3 - 10)

To appraise the impact of the Everybody In Scheme to support rough sleepers during the Covid-19 epidemic and to consider proposals resulting from applications to the Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund. [Report Attached]

7 Shropshire HomePoint (Pages 11 - 64)

To consider the profile of housing need in Shropshire and how Homepoint meets that need. To review the draft revised Housing Allocation Policy. [Report Attached]

8 Communities Overview Committee Work Programme 2020-2021 (Pages 65 - 74)

To consider the Committee's work programme. [Report attached]

9 Date/Time of next meeting

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday 16th November 2020 at 2.00pm.

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Communities
Overview Committee

28 October 2020

2.00pm

Item

Public

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2020 11.43 AM - 1.09 PM

Responsible Officer: Julie Fildes
Email: Julie.Fildes@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257723

Present

Councillors Cecilia Motley (Chairman), Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Ted Clarke, Vivienne Parry, Leslie Winwood and Tina Woodward

27 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillors Nigel Hartin and Roger Hughes.

28 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

29 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

30 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

31 Member Question Time

There were no Member questions.

32 Working with Shropshire Communities - Communicating with Shropshire People

The Chairman reported that the officers who were due to provide an update, were unavailable and currently prioritising the Council's response to the flooding crisis. It was therefore agreed that an update will be provided at a future meeting.

The Scrutiny Officer provided an update on which items were due to be considered at the next meeting. The Committee agreed that a Monday was not an ideal day to hold a meeting and it was agreed that the scrutiny officer would liaise with the Chairman and agree a date for the next meeting.

33 Supporting Vulnerable Adults in Shropshire

The Committee received the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Officer outlining the different ways that Shropshire Council supports vulnerable adults. The Chairman welcomed Neil Evans, Kate Garner and Chris Westwood to the meeting.

Members thanked officers for the update and commented that the briefing had been informative, however there was an element of concern expressed that some groups were being missed. It was suggested that senior officers could be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss these issues in more detail. Members commented how grateful they were to the officers working in this area.

34 Future Work Programme

Members agreed the future work programme of the Committee.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



Committee and Date

**Communities Overview
Committee**

28 October 2020

Item

Public

Support for people sleeping rough in Shropshire

Responsible officer

Laura Fisher, Housing Services Manager
laura.fisher@shropshire.gov.uk

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report provides an overview of homelessness in Shropshire and a summary of the support being provided to those individual sleeping rough within the county borders.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee members to:

Note the contents of the report especially the Next Steps Accommodation Programme and work planned to safeguard those sleeping rough during the winter.

3.0 Background – Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

3.1 The Housing Options Team workload has increased steadily for approx. 2 years. This is in part due to the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and an additional duty to all clients who require advice and assistance as Priority Need and Local Connection is invisible during Prevention stage.

3.2 Number of households presenting to Council in housing need
(Sept 2019-Sept 2020) = 3369

3.3 Number of households placed into temporary accommodation
(Sept 2019-Sept 2020) = 613

3.4 Number of households to whom the Council accepted a full homeless duty
(Sept 2019-Sept 2020) = 177

3.5 Top 3 reasons for homelessness in Shropshire:

- Relationship breakdown
- Family eviction
- Loss of private rented accommodation

3.6 As of 05.10.20 the number of households in B&B = 127.

- Of these 10 are families and 107 are single households.
- At the peak of C19 lockdown we had 183 households in B&B.

3.7 As of 05.10.20 the number of households in temporary accommodation = 101.

- Of these 60 are families and 51 are single households.

3.8 As of 01.04.20, for the financial year 2019/20, the loss of subsidy to Shropshire Council using B&B and temporary accommodation was £949,064.

3.9 Looking at a midyear estimate for 20/21, the prediction is that homeless expenditure by the Council will be £3,585,588 with a loss in subsidy of £2,251,447.

4.0 Background – Rough Sleepers

4.1 Rough Sleeping is the visible side of homelessness, although is only a small part of the work that Housing Services undertake.

4.2 In 2019 Shropshire Council was successful in being awarded funding from MHCLG Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Funding. This meant we were able to set up a dedicated rough sleeper team consisting of 1 x Coordinator, 3 x Inreach / Outreach Workers and 1 x support worker from Temporary Accommodation who works across both teams.

4.3 The RSI funding was in part due to a year on year increase in the numbers of rough sleepers across Shropshire. The figures below are taken from the snapshot estimate undertaken each year by all Local Authorities. Our count this year is taking place on 5th/6th November 2020.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
10	13	10	12	10	7	13	13	21	16

4.4 As of 05.10.2020 we had 22 verified rough sleepers on the streets of Shropshire. 17 of these are in the Shrewsbury area. We have an additional 9 clients who were rough sleeping but were accommodated under Covid19 ‘Everyone In’ and who are still in B&B waiting to be moved on.

4.5 Of the 22 individuals on the streets there are 17 males and 5 females. 4 individuals have issues with their Mental Health, 5 with Substance Misuse, 3 with Alcohol and 8 with a mixture of all 3. There are 2 individuals who do not need support with any of these aspects (as far as we know at the moment).

4.6 Referrals into the Rough Sleeper Team has been steadily increasing with 80 separate individuals in the last 6 months

- Streetlink – 36
- Referrals – 44

5.0 Support for Rough Sleepers

5.1 The Shropshire Council Rough Sleeper Team operate out of 70 Castle Foregate. This is an 11-bed hostel leased from Severnside. We currently operate as a 9 bed hostel due to need for office space and limited sharing of bathroom facilities due to C19.

5.2 The aim of the hostel is to operate as a short-term base for rough sleepers to be housed whilst we assess their needs and ensure they have the support needed. The aim will be to move them into either a temporary accommodation unit or their own accommodation where in reach support can be provided ongoing.

5.3 During the C19 lockdown, Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Ark worked with the Prince Rupert hotel in Shrewsbury to house all rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping under the Governments ‘Everyone In’ Scheme.

- 5.4 At the peak there were 33 individuals housed at the Prince Rupert. Some of these individuals have opted to leave the accommodation as the restrictions lessened and unfortunately some have been asked to leave due to their behaviour. However, there has been a significant number of positive moves and support is still being provided by both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Ark where required.
- 5.5 At appendix 1 of this report is a number of links to national and local reports of the work undertaken by Shropshire at The Prince Rupert.
- 5.6 Shrewsbury Ark and Shropshire Council operate an Outreach Service 5 days a week. This involves members of staff and volunteers attending reports of rough sleepers across the county to offer advice and assistance. Attendance is expected within the next working day.
- 5.7 There is also a weekly operational meeting jointly chaired by Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Ark where all known rough sleepers and those who are continuing to be supported are discussed by the relevant agencies. The aim is to ensure that everyone is up to date with current circumstances and that the correct support can be provided when needed.
- 5.8 We are aware that sometimes people will not want to work with the Council as we are authority. In these instances, they often have a positive relationship with Shrewsbury Ark staff. As much as possible we allow individuals to work with who they are comfortable with as the outcome is more important than who does what and when.
- 5.9 There is also a monthly managers meeting held between agencies and I am in the process of setting up a task force forum which will cover homelessness in general and meet on a quarterly basis.

6.0 Shropshire Council's Homeless App

- 6.1 Shropshire Council's housing Services and ICT teams developed an app to help arrange support for the people who are homeless. The app has been developed internally using Microsoft's PowerApps platform, that is part of the Microsoft package many councils already buy into
- 6.2 The Homeless app allows housing outreach workers to add information about a person's situation (in real time) when they encounter them rough sleeping on the streets: a central team then use the information to seek support.
- 6.3 Previous methods for supporting those in need relied on two outreach staff recording details of the homeless person on paper, with that piece of paper then returned to the office at the end of their shift for another team to find support. The previous process was far slower than the new, with the main and most important difference being the time taken to provide a package of support – which can be as little as 10 minutes.

7.0 Shropshire Recovery Partnership

- 7.1 Support for rough sleepers who are dependent on drugs and / or alcohol is provided by Shropshire Recovery Partnership (SRP). SRP are commissioned by Shropshire Council.
- 7.2 SRP provides pharmacological and psychosocial treatment for people who are dependent on drugs and / or alcohol. There is a dedicated outreach worker in Shrewsbury who works with the homeless population and the Shrewsbury Ark. The primary function of this worker is to develop relationships with the homeless and break down barriers to treatment, offering a range of support including harm reduction, Hep C treatment and support to overcome dependence on drugs and alcohol.
- 7.3 Following the announcement of the national lockdown SRP worked quickly to risk assess all those who were currently on prescribed medication for opiate substitution treatment (OST). Due to the outreach work it was known that a number of people in this cohort were drug and /or alcohol dependent were not currently accessing support. It was recognised the lockdown could reduce the supply of drugs and /or alcohol leading to withdrawal, which in the case of alcohol, if not managed to correctly, could lead to serious illness or even death.
- 7.4 Working closely with the Shrewsbury Ark and Shropshire Council, SRP ensured staff were available to support the homeless in the Prince Rupert, as well as those housed temporarily in other accommodation. Several people who had not been known to service before the lockdown entered service during this time. Due to the lockdown, face to face assessments could not be conducted and social media and telephones were used. Where a medical appointment was needed the person was directed to a face to face medical appointment with the local clinical lead at Crown House, all services are COVID secure.
- 7.5 All staff operating in the Prince Rupert were trained in the use of naloxone, a drug that is used to temporarily reverse a drug overdose, in order to allow medical treatment and save life. Clean needles and syringes were also provided to reduce the spread of blood borne virus, such as Hepatitis C. The provision of naloxone and training was also offered to those staff in other accommodation used to support the homeless and those temporarily housed. Since the reopening of services, a substance misuse nurse provides a clinic on a weekly basis at the ARK.
- 7.6 A further pathway to treatment was strengthened for women who were fleeing domestic abuse during this time, with a dedicated worker allocated to the women's refuge. Again, this had to be undertaken by a digital assessment. This has also proved to be very successful with several referrals from the refuge and treatment started.

8.0 Safeguarding and Mental Health Support

- 8.1 The Adult Safeguarding Team (ASG) has the function of providing a countywide service to deal with referrals that involve harm to any person over the age of 18 in which the following criteria is met:
- The adult has care and support needs
 - The adult is experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect
 - As a result of their care and support needs, they are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The team works closely with partner agencies such as the police, CCG, providers, social work teams, the NHS etc.

- 8.2 The Community Mental Health / AMHP Service (County Wide) is committed to promoting positive mental wellbeing, independence and resilience in our community within the framework of the Care Act 2014, Mental Health Act 1983 & Mental Capacity Act 2005. They continue to work closely with the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT), and other partners. The Mental Health Social Work Team provide social care assessment for people with functional mental health difficulties.

9.0 Working with voluntary and community organisations – Shrewsbury Ark

- 9.1 Shrewsbury Ark are a volunteer led charity governed by 10 volunteer trustees. They have 2 patrons (Marcus & Jenny Bean and Chris Walker.)
- 9.2 The Shrewsbury Ark operate a day centre for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping from 10 Castle Foregate in Shrewsbury. The Day Centre services consist of everything from individual support, a listening ear, supporting people to attend appointments and applying for ID ... The list is endless.
- 9.3 They work in partnership with individuals who access the Ark & support them to engage with other services such as 'We are with you', Medical care, Housing Options, SALUTE, Counselling, Social Work teams, Probation, Solicitors and local police.
- 9.4 They provide breakfast, lunch, shower facilities, emergency clothing/underwear, sleeping bags, ruck sacks, toiletries, emergency food parcels and ladies & men's welfare packs. They assist with help to access transport to reduce barriers attending hospital, court and visiting family. There is access to services such as telephones, computer, printers and a photocopier as well as operating as a c/o address where needed.
- 9.5 Shrewsbury Ark operate a number of inhouse support services – these are listed below:
- GP Clinic – must be registered with Riverside medical practice but will see individuals as a temporary patient, people who are homeless and accessing the Ark are registered with the practice if appropriate to do so.
 - SALUTE – Therapeutic support service (funded by the Ark)
 - Counselling – The Ark fund counselling sessions for people accessing and registered with our service
 - Shropshire Recovery Partnership – Drug & Alcohol Service Nurse Practitioner
- 9.6 They also arrange several mindful activities such as:
- Kyles Allotment – an allotment open to anyone who is interested in gardening, growing vegetables or just wanting to escape for an hour and be at one with nature. The allotment provides fruit and vegetables for the Ark Day Centre and also Palmers. The small project is supported by volunteers and staff.
 - Football – football skills held at Shrewsbury Town Football club all are welcome supported by Shrewsbury Town in the Community
 - Boxing – boxing skills and training held at The Grange all are welcome
 - Art – Currently held away from the ark due to space all are welcome and they are currently planning an exhibition to coincide with mental health awareness' day & also world homelessness day in October.

10.0 Cold Weather Provision and Severe Weather Provision

- 10.1 Shropshire Council and partners are working through plans to ensure rough sleepers are supported in the coming winter months. All rough sleepers will be offered accommodation.
- 10.2 Between November and March, as temperatures begin to drop, the council along with The Shrewsbury Ark and other key partners will activate the Cold Weather Provision (CWP) plan, to support rough sleepers. Those who are sleeping rough, will have access to hot food, support and a warm place to stay both day and night when the cold winter temperatures kick in. This is not a Council statutory duty yet is something Shropshire Council has provided for many years.
- 10.3 For those who refuse the offer of CWP there will be an offer of Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) during times when the weather is considered severe. SWEP is run by a team of volunteers comprising of staff from both Shropshire Council and partner agencies such as Shrewsbury Ark and Shropshire Recovery Partnership. Each evening, housing officers visit all rough sleepers to remind them that this provision is available, and to encourage them to come in from the cold. Police, council, street pastors and others are also helping to ensure everyone is made aware that they do not need to be outside. Taxis are available for those who may be unable to travel easily to this facility.
- 10.4 However, despite every effort being made, some people will still choose to remain outdoors, and while we will not judge anyone's reasons for this, it is important to note that during this bitter weather, we will do everything possible to ensure that all rough sleepers are aware of this provision.

11.0 Funding

- 11.1 Due to the positive outcomes delivered by the 'Everyone In' Scheme during C19 Central Government has launched the Next Steps Programme (NSAP). The Programme makes available the financial resources needed to support local authorities and their partners to accommodate rough sleepers and provide long term ongoing support. It includes capital for property costs and an attached long-term revenue stream to ensure people are supported in their new tenancies.
- 11.2 In the first round of funding, Shropshire Council was successful in being awarded £123,500 to fund additional staff until 31.03.2021 as well as provide private rent incentives. The aim is to develop 75 new bedspaces through this funding.
- 11.3 We have also requested funding for 2 capital projects. The first being a renovation of a 13-bed hostel in Shrewsbury and the other being purchase from the open market of 5 one bed units. These will be in partnership with Severnside and STAR. There is also revenue funding attached to these projects to enable support to be provided.
- 11.4 There is expected to be additional funding rounds of the NSAP which Shropshire Council hopes to bid for, enabling additional bedspaces to be developed, reducing the use of B&B. This will mean better outcomes for those vulnerable people we support as well as a less expensive option for temporary accommodation for the authority.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Robert Macey – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Our work during Covid 19

Appendix 1 – Our work during Covid – The prince rupert

Videos:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWhn5GN_Muo&feature=share
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0aPoh8P8Ec&feature=share>
- <https://youtu.be/WtdAQ-VGmSs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgCfpcEd7fk&feature=share>

Articles:

- <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/health/coronavirus-covid19/2020/08/22/locked-down-in-an-oasis-of-care-how-shrewsbury-hotel-became-a-lifeline-to-towns-homeless/>
- <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/shrewsbury/2020/06/23/hotel-pledges-to-continue-helping-homeless/>
- <https://www.thecaterer.com/news/hotel-for-homeless-vows-provide-accommodation-as-long-as-needed>
- <https://supportshrewsbury.co.uk/in-the-headlines-the-prince-rupert-hotel-housing-shrewsburys-homeless/>

Radio:

- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.lbc.co.uk/radio/presenters/eddie-mair/coronavirus-prince-rupert-hotel-housing-homeless-covid-19-awe/>



<p><u>Committee and Date</u></p> <p>Communities Overview Committee</p> <p>28 October 2020</p>
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<p><u>Item</u></p> <p><u>Public</u></p>

Shropshire HomePoint

Responsible officer

Laura Fisher, Housing Services Manager
 laura.fisher@shropshire.gov.uk

1.0	Summary
1.1	This report provides an overview of Shropshire HomePoint with some key statistics detailing need and workload.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee members to: Note the contents of the report especially the aspect of a Task and Finish Group to look at the review of Shropshire Allocations Policy.
3.0	Background
3.1	Shropshire HomePoint is a Choice Based Lettings Housing Register. Choice based lettings schemes allow you to bid for council and housing association properties that the council advertises. Existing tenants may be able to use the scheme if they want to transfer properties.
3.2	The scheme advertises most social / affordable housing in the county (excluding Telford and Wrekin) and also some private sector properties. Social housing is affordable housing allocated based on need at lower than market rate rents.
3.3	Once you are registered, you are able to make one bid of interest per week for affordable and social rented properties but can make as many bids as you like for mutual exchanges, low cost home ownership, private rented, house shares and private properties for sale.
3.4	Shropshire HomePoint operates as a back office for the Social landlords who advertise. We process the applications, band clients and issues shortlists. Shropshire HomePoint does not allocate properties; this is done by the landlord.
3.5	The waiting list operates using the Allocations Policy and different banding options. People deemed not to be in housing need are in Bronze banding with increasing needs being allocated via silver, gold and priority. Those who the Council have a duty to accommodate are in the priority banding.
3.6	Although the Allocations Policy is agreed by all the partners, some housing associations have their own lettings policies in addition to Shropshire HomePoint.

4.0	Workloads and Staffing Levels		
4.1	The number of households applying for housing via Shropshire HomePoint has been steadily increasing.		
	March/April 2020	01.08.2020	01.10.2020
	5,711	5,732	5,814
4.2	As of October 2020, we have the following numbers on the waiting list broken down by banding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Priority Banding = 257 o Gold Banding = 924 o Silver Banding = 2,143 o Bronze Banding = 2,490 		
4.3	Of those in priority banding 220 are owed a statutory homeless duty. These are the household to whom Shropshire Council has accepted a duty to rehouse. From 04.01.2019 – 31.03.2020 there were 1,241 applicants rehoused which equated to 137 statutory homeless households.		
4.4	Additional information regarding Shropshire HomePoint statistics can be found at Appendix 1 – the most recent Quarterly report shared with the Landlords.		
4.5	Workload within the Shropshire HomePoint Team has been increasing during Covid19 due to many people feeling as though they need to move into more affordable properties.		
4.6	The team consists of 1 senior and 4.5 FTE posts.		
4.7	Workloads for the team – per month		
		2020 to date	
	Online applications	440	
	Paper applications	65	
	Correspondence	175	
	Emails	1702	
	Verifications	267	
	Phone Calls	400	
4.8	Due to evictions being on hold, and now there being the introduction of a 6-month notice period, as well as a lull in the development of new schemes, the number of adverts issued each week has been decreasing.		
	January 2020	May 2020	October 2020
	Circa 55 p/week	Circa 13 per week	Circa 32 per week
4.9	The lull in adverts causes frustration with applicants who are keen to move into more suitable and affordable housing.		

5.0	Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme
5.1	The Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme was developed in 2014. It has not been reviewed in this time. Some aspects of the policy are now out of date. A review of the policy will require a consultation period with Landlords, Elected Members and the Public.
5.2	This report seeks to start a discussion regarding Shropshire HomePoint and a task and finish group to look at a review of the Allocations Policy.
5.3	A copy of the Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme can be found at Appendix 2.

<p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) None</p>
<p>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr Robert Macey – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning</p>
<p>Local Member All</p>
<p>Appendices Appendix 1 – Quarterly Reporting Appendix 2 – Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme</p>

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Working in Partnership to meet Shropshire's Accommodation Needs

Quarterly Monitoring Statistics

April 2020 to June 2020



Working in Partnership to meet **Shropshire's** accommodation needs

Choice-Based
Accommodation

Housing
Register

Advertising
Affordable &
Private Housing

Housing Needs
Analysis

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Introduction

Shropshire HomePoint is a Choice-Based Accommodation Scheme responsible for operating the Shropshire Housing Register.

The scheme advertises the majority of affordable homes in the county and increasingly markets private sector properties.

Scheme members include:



Key Monitoring Statistics

KEY STATISTICS

	Quarter End 30/09/2019	Quarter End 31/12/2019	Quarter End 31/03/2020	Quarter End 30/06/2020
1. Total No. on Housing Register	5,446	5,475	5,599	5,733
2. Total No. of Under 18s	14	15	11	14
3. Total No. Over 55s	1,362	1,369	1,383	1,342
4. Total No. Wheelchair Users	91	86	86	76
5. Total No. Registered Blind	41	40	47	40
6. Percentage BME	5.58	5.64	6.72	2.71
7. Total No. Move-On	25	27	31	37
8. Total No. Sheltered Need Approved	265	282	312	226
9. Total No. HHSRS Cat 1.	24	27	30	21
10. Total No. HHSRS Cat 2.	31	32	33	31
11. Total No. Exceptional Medical	23	24	32	36
12. Total No. High Medical	154	169	177	153
13. Total No. Standard Medical	684	698	714	698
14. Percentage Foreign Nationals	2.61	2.59	2.66	2.70
15. Total No. Priority Homeless Duty	149	170	179	210
16. Total No. Priority Other	23	23	30	33
17. Total No. Gold Band	869	853	897	891
18. Total No. Silver Band	1,936	1,964	1,996	2,086
19. Total No. Bronze Band	2,469	2,465	2,497	2,513
20. Percentage Requiring 1 Bedroom	50.50	50.44	50.21	50.25
21. Percentage Requiring 2 Bedrooms	32.13	32.05	32.51	33.02
22. Percentage Requiring 3 Bedrooms	14.34	14.28	14.05	13.66
23. Percentage Requiring 4 Plus Bedrooms	3.03	3.23	3.23	3.07
24. Total No. Property Adverts	601	528	919	277

Key Monitoring Statistics

KEY STATISTICS	Quarter End 30/09/2019	Quarter End 31/12/2019	Quarter End 31/03/2020	Quarter End 30/06/2020
25. Total No. Bids Received	16,520	13,567	24,305	10,922
26. Average No. Bids per Property	27.49	25.70	26.45	39.43
27. Total No. Offers accepted	353	263	318	101
28. Total No. Accepted Offers Priority	42	44	44	20
29. Total No. Accepted Offers Gold Band	107	65	74	26
30. Total No. Accepted Offers Silver Band	140	118	131	41
31. Total No. Accepted Offer Bronze Band	64	36	69	14

Housing Register Statistics

APPLICATIONS BY BAND

	No. Last Quarter	% Last Quarter	No. This Quarter	% This Quarter
Priority Status with Duty	179	3.20	210	3.66
Priority Status Other	30	0.54	33	0.58
Gold Band	897	16.01	891	15.54
Silver Band	1,996	35.65	2,086	36.39
Bronze Band	2,497	44.60	2,513	43.83
Total	5,599	100.00	5,733	100.00

APPLICATIONS

	No. Last Quarter	% Last Quarter	No. This Quarter	% This Quarter
Under 18s	11	0.19	14	0.24
Over 55s	1,383	24.70	1,342	23.41
Male	1,885	33.67	1,935	33.75
Female	3,712	66.30	3,797	66.23
Registered Blind	47	0.84	144	2.51
Wheelchair Users	86	1.53	76	1.33
Move-on	31	0.55	37	0.65
Sheltered Need Approved	312	5.57	226	3.94
BME	322	6.72	449	7.83
Foreign Nationals	149	2.66	152	2.65

NEW APPLICATIONS BY BAND

	No. Last Quarter	% Last Quarter	No. This Quarter	% This Quarter
Priority Status	12	0.96	6	0.55
Gold Band	155	12.34	108	9.85
Silver Band	460	36.62	403	36.77
Bronze Band	629	50.08	579	52.83
Total	1,256	100.00	1,096	100.00

Housing Register Statistics

APPLICATIONS BY NATIONALITY

	Priority	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	%
EEA	4	17	45	62	128	2.23
UK National	235	868	2,033	2,442	5,578	97.30
Other	4	6	8	9	27	0.47
Total	243	891	2,086	2,513	5,733	100.00

APPLICATIONS BY ORIENTATION

	No. Last Quarter	% Last Quarter	No. This Quarter	% This Quarter
Bisexual	68	1.21	75	1.31
Gay	47	0.83	49	0.85
Heterosexual	4,380	78.23	4,518	78.81
Lesbian	35	0.63	34	0.59
Prefer Not to Say	1,069	19.10	1,057	18.44
Total	5,599	100.00	5,733	100.00

APPLICATIONS BY RELIGION

	No. Last Quarter	% Last Quarter	No. This Quarter	% This Quarter
Agnostic	98	1.75	104	1.81
Buddhist	24	0.43	25	0.44
Christian	2,443	43.63	2,481	43.28
Hindu	2	0.04	3	0.05
Jewish	0	0.00	0	0.00
Muslim	19	0.34	27	0.47
Not Known	37	0.66	35	0.61
Sikh	1	0.02	3	0.05
Any Other	983	17.55	1,029	17.95
Prefer Not to Say	1,992	35.58	2,026	35.34
Total	5,599	100.00	5,733	100.00

Housing Register Statistics

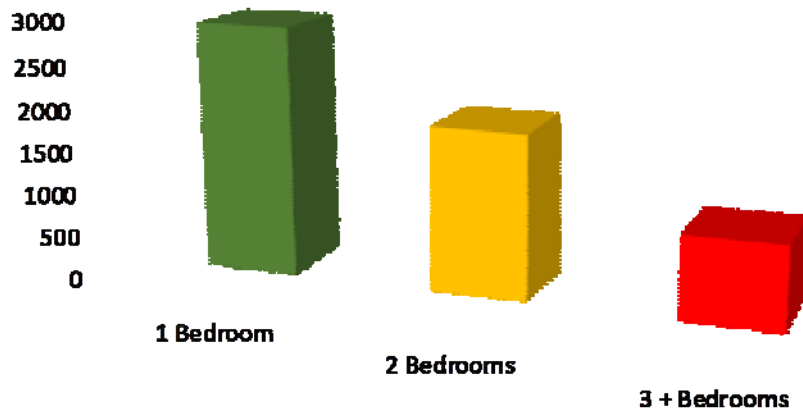
APPLICATIONS BY ETHNICITY	Priority	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	%
Bangladeshi	0	0	1	2	3	0.05
Black African	1	1	9	7	18	0.31
Black Caribbean	0	3	1	7	11	0.19
Chinese	0	0	1	3	4	0.07
Gypsy, Romany, Traveller	2	2	1	2	7	0.12
Indian	0	0	2	4	6	0.10
Mixed White & Asian	0	2	6	2	10	0.17
Mixed White & Black African	0	1	1	2	4	0.07
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	1	4	18	17	40	0.70
Not Disclosed	13	20	40	28	101	1.76
Other Asian	0	2	6	9	17	0.30
Other Black	0	1	3	3	7	0.12
Other Ethnic	1	2	6	7	16	0.28
Other Mixed	0	1	4	3	8	0.14
Other White	5	25	61	80	171	2.98
Pakistani	0	0	3	4	7	0.12
White British	217	823	1,916	2,328	5,284	92.17
White Irish	3	4	7	5	19	0.33
Total	243	891	2,086	2,513	5,733	100.00
Total BME	13	48	130	157	348	6.07

Housing Register Statistics

BANDING AND MINIMUM BEDROOM NEED

Banding			Minimum 1 Bedroom		Minimum 2 Bedrooms				Minimum 3 Plus Bedrooms				Total
	P	G	S	B	P	G	S	B	P	G	S	B	
Aged Under 18	0	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Aged 18 - 25	19	44	238	148	12	48	138	213	1	4	21	5	891
Aged 26 - 35	33	39	264	149	21	65	159	458	10	53	177	212	1,640
Aged 36 - 45	30	44	150	121	13	52	78	205	15	49	100	175	1,032
Aged 46 - 55	26	90	186	157	8	47	67	121	5	13	32	62	814
Aged 56 - 65	17	96	175	210	6	30	25	50	3	3	7	10	632
Aged 66 - 75	10	103	130	133	2	20	22	12	0	0	0	2	434
Aged Over 75	11	79	104	61	1	10	8	2	0	0	0	0	276
Total	146	497	1,252	986	63	272	497	1,061	34	122	337	466	5,733
Total			2,881		1,893				959				5,733

APPLICATIONS BY BEDROOM



Housing Register Statistics

APPLICATIONS BY LANDLORD

	Minimum 1 Bedroom	Minimum 2 Bedrooms	Minimum 3 Plus Bedrooms	Total
Abbeyfields Trust	0	0	0	0
Accord	4	5	3	12
Anchor	4	3	0	7
Birmbeck	4	3	0	7
Bromford	66	63	27	156
Derwent Living	0	0	0	0
Habinteg Housing	0	1	0	1
Housing 21	8	2	0	10
Mercian	3	0	0	3
MMHA	99	80	50	229
Sanctuary	32	37	29	98
Sevenside Housing	235	195	156	586
Shropshire Rural	11	25	7	43
South Shropshire	73	59	43	175
South Staffordshire	12	14	3	29
Stonewater	13	23	14	50
STAR Housing	114	95	64	273
Trident Housing	6	2	2	10
WHA	2	5	1	8
Wrekin Housing Trust	79	91	49	219
Wyre Forest	1	1	2	4

Housing Register Statistics

APPLICATIONS BY LANDLORD	Under Occupying	%	Overcrowded	%
Abbeyfields Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Accord	0	0.00	0	0.00
Anchor	0	0.00	0	0.00
Birmbeck	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bromford	25	5.77	5	6.17
Derwent Living	0	0.00	0	0.00
Habinteg Housing	0	0.00	0	0.00
Housing 21	0	0.00	0	0.00
Mercian	0	0.00	0	0.00
MMHA	64	14.78	9	11.11
Sanctuary	10	2.31	7	8.64
Sevenside Housing	133	30.72	28	34.57
Shropshire Rural	14	3.23	1	1.23
South Shropshire	64	14.78	5	6.17
South Staffordshire	1	0.23	1	1.23
STAR Housing	78	18.01	12	14.81
Stonewater	8	1.85	4	4.94
Trident Housing	0	0.00	0	0.00
Wrekin Housing Trust	36	8.31	9	11.11
Wyre Forest	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	433	100.00	81	100.00

Property Statistics

PROPERTY INFORMATION	Quarter End 30/09/2019	Quarter End 31/12/2019	Quarter End 31/03/2020	Quarter End 30/06/2020	Total
No. of Property Adverts	601	528	919	277	2,325
Direct Matches	6	9	40	4	59

NO. OF ADVERTS BY LANDLORDS	Quarter End 30/09/2019	Quarter End 31/12/2019	Quarter End 31/03/2020	Quarter End 30/06/2020	Total
Birnbeck	0	0	0	0	0
Bromford	15	36	55	24	130
Housing 21	2	1	3	0	6
Meres and Mosses	89	113	189	61	452
Sanctuary	21	16	23	9	69
Sevenside	206	118	189	86	599
Shropshire Rural	7	5	11	6	29
South Shropshire	42	55	157	32	286
South Staffordshire	2	0	6	0	8
STAR Housing	119	125	183	18	445
Stonewater	11	6	16	4	37
Trident	6	0	0	2	8
WHA	0	0	2	0	2
Wrekin	80	53	85	35	253
Wyre Forest	1	0	0	0	1
Other Landlord	0	0	0	0	0
Total	601	528	919	277	2,325

Property Statistics

AVERAGE NUMBER OF BIDS PER PROPERTY

Quarter End
30/09/2019

Quarter End
31/12/2019

Quarter End
31/03/2020

Quarter End
30/06/2020

27.49

25.70

26.45

LETS BY LANDLORDS

	Quarter End 30/09/2019					Quarter End 31/12/2019					Quarter End 31/03/2020					Quarter End 30/06/2020					Total	
	P	G	S	B	Total	P	G	S	B	Total	P	G	S	B	Total	P	G	S	B	Total		
Birmbeck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromford	4	11	15	9	39	2	4	3	0	9	4	5	10	2	21	3	3	1	0	7	76	
Housing 21	1	2	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Meres and Mosses	4	18	25	10	57	4	7	16	5	32	2	13	15	9	39	2	2	5	2	11	139	
Sanctuary	1	6	5	1	13	1	4	7	2	14	0	4	5	1	10	0	0	1	0	1	38	
Sevenside	21	36	41	13	111	25	22	43	10	100	20	25	29	11	85	9	9	11	4	33	329	
Shropshire Rural	0	2	2	0	4	1	1	1	1	4	0	2	1	7	10	0	0	1	0	1	19	
South Shropshire	6	7	12	12	37	6	5	10	3	24	4	8	16	10	38	1	2	2	6	11	110	
South Staffordshire	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	7	
STAR Housing	3	14	23	8	48	3	13	31	13	60	6	13	43	27	89	4	9	15	1	29	226	
Stonewater	1	6	8	1	16	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	2	23	
Trident	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Wrekin HT	1	5	7	5	18	1	9	6	2	18	7	3	8	1	19	0	1	2	1	4	59	
Wyre Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Landlord	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Total	42	107	140	64	353	44	65	118	36	263	44	74	131	69	318	20	26	41	14	101	1,035	

Property Statistics

PRIORITY OFFERS BY

	Quarter End 30/09/2019			Quarter End 31/12/2019			Quarter End 31/03/2020			Quarter End 30/06/2020		
	No.	% Own Offers	% Overall Priority Offers	No.	% Own Offers	% Overall Priority Offers	No.	% Own Offers	% Overall Priority Offers	No.	% Own Offers	% Overall Priority Offers
Birmbeck	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Bromford	4	10.26	9.52	2	22.22	4.55	4	19.05	9.09	3	42.86	15.00
Housing 21	1	16.66	2.38	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Meres and Mosses	4	7.02	9.52	4	12.50	9.09	2	5.13	4.55	2	18.18	10.00
Sanctuary	1	7.69	2.38	1	7.14	2.27	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Sevenside	21	18.92	50.00	25	25.00	56.82	20	23.53	45.45	9	27.27	45.00
Shropshire Rural	0	0.00	0.00	1	25.00	2.27	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
South Shropshire	6	16.22	14.29	6	25.00	13.64	4	10.53	9.09	1	9.09	5.00
South Staffordshire	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
STAR Housing	3	6.25	7.15	3	5.00	6.82	6	6.74	13.64	4	13.79	20.00
Stonewater	1	6.25	2.38	1	50.00	2.27	1	33.33	2.27	1	50.00	5.00
Trident	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Wrekin	1	5.56	2.38	1	5.56	2.27	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Wyre Forest	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	7	36.84	15.91	0	0.00	0.00
Other Landlord	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Total	42		100.00	44		100.00	44		100.00	20		100.00

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

	Quarter End 30/09/2019	Quarter End 31/12/2019	Quarter End 31/03/2020	Quarter End 30/06/2020	Total	%
Bronze	64 of 353	36 of 263	69 of 318	14 of 101	183 of 1,035	17.68
Band						
Move to Independent Living	6	3	29	2	40 of 1,035	3.86

CHOICE-BASED ACCOMMODATION
HOUSING REGISTER
ADVERTISING AFFORDABLE & PRIVATE HOUSING
HOUSING NEEDS ANALYSIS

Shropshire HomePoint is a Choice-Based Accommodation Scheme responsible for operating the Shropshire Housing Register.

The scheme advertises the majority of affordable homes in the county and increasingly markets private sector properties.

Choice-Based Accommodation is a simpler and easier way to allocate affordable and private housing by advertising it and allowing applicants to choose for themselves the properties they would like to be considered for.



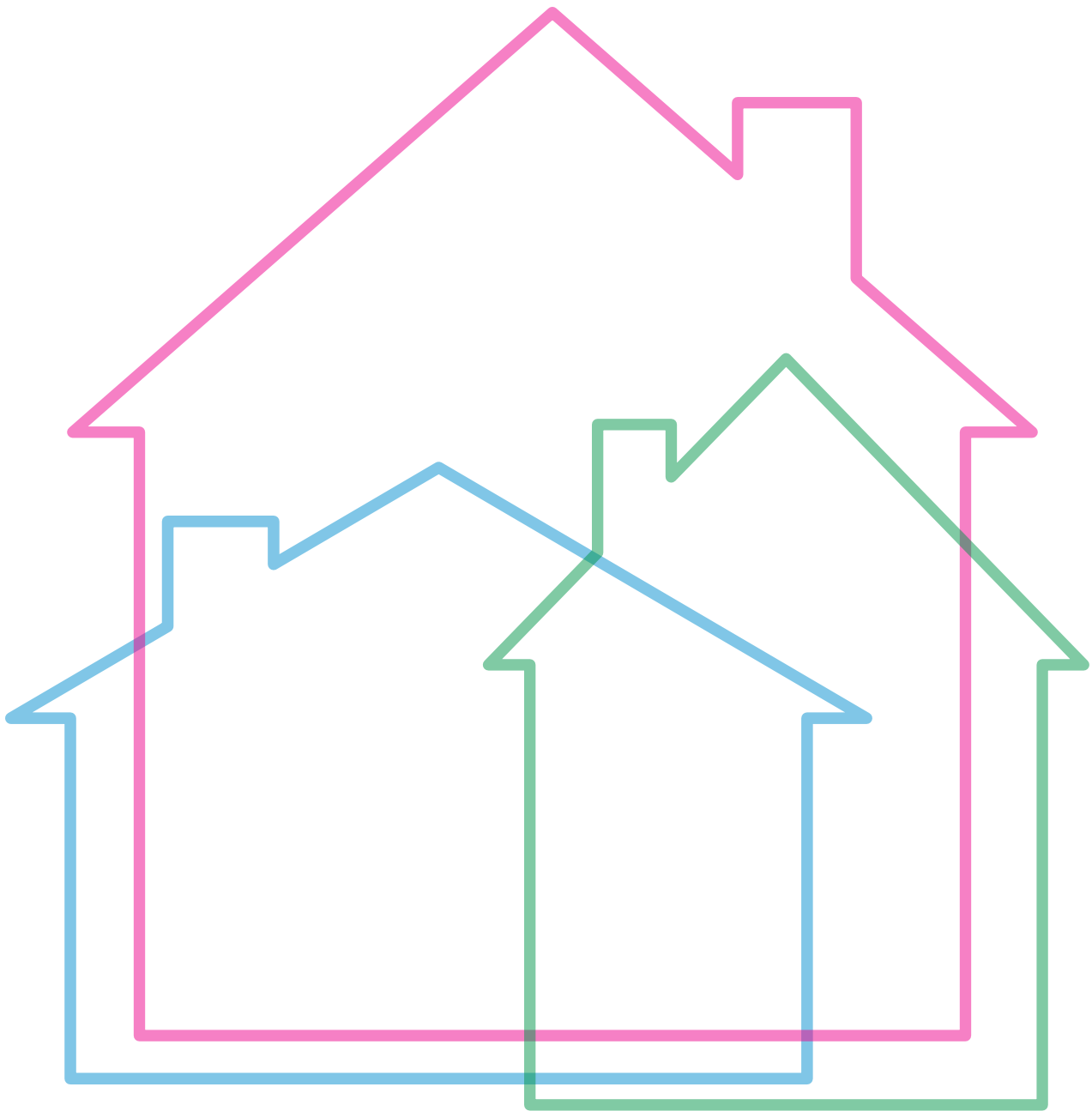
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Abbey Foregate
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Shropshire
SY2 6ND

0300 303 8595 :tel

enquiries@shropshirehomepoint.co.uk :email

www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk :web

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Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme

26 March 2014

www.shropshire.gov.uk/housingscheme

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Shropshire HomePoint

LOOK ONLINE: www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk

CONTACT US VIA EMAIL: enquiries@shropshirehomepoint.co.uk

PHONE US:

General Queries: 0300 303 8595

ADDRESS: Shropshire HomePoint, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND

Shropshire Council Customer Service Point contact details

Albrighton: Tuesdays and Fridays: 9am – 2pm. 82b High Street, WV7 3JA.

Bridgnorth: Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm Westgate, WV16 5AA

Bishops Castle: Mon, Tues & Fri 9am – 2:30pm. Enterprise House, Station Street, SY9 5AQ

Broseley: Monday 2pm - 5pm. Thursday 9.30am - 5pm. Friday 3pm - 5pm Broseley Library, The Old School, Bridgnorth Road, TF12 5EL

Church Stretton: Monday – Saturday: 9:30am – 3pm (Closed Wednesday) The Library, Church Street, SY6 6DQ

Craven Arms: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm. Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, School Road, SY7 9RS

Ellesmere: Tuesday and Friday 10:00am – 4:30pm. Library, Victoria Street, SY12 0AA

Shrewsbury: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm. Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, SY3 8HQ

Oswestry: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, SY11 1JN

Ludlow: Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm. Stone House, Corve Street, SY8 1DG

Market Drayton: Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 4pm. 49 Cheshire Street, TF9 1PH

Shifnal: Monday: 2pm - 5pm: Wednesday: 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm Friday: 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm. Shifnal Library, Broadway, TF11 8AZ

Wem: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm. Edinburgh House, New Street, SY4 5DB

Whitchurch: Monday - Friday: 10am - 4pm. Saturday: 10am-1pm. Whitchurch Heritage Centre, 12 St Mary's Street, SY13 1QY

Email: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

This document is also available in Braille, large print, audio and other languages upon request

WELSH

Os oes amoch chi eisiau cael y gwybodaeth yma yn gymraeg, mae hi'n bosibl inni drefnu cael gwasanaeth cyfieithydd. ffoniwch 01746 713100 os gwelwch chi'n dda.

ENGLISH

If you would like this information in your language we can arrange an interpreter. Please telephone 01746 713100.

ARABIC

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغتك يمكننا توفير المترجم. 01746 713100 ليس عليك إلا الاتصال بنا.

BENGALI

যদি আপনি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পছন্দ করেন তাহলে আমরা এক ব্যাখ্যাতারের ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারি। দয়া করিয়া টেলিফোন করিবেন 01746 713100।

CHINESE

如果你想使用你的母语交流这个资讯，我们可以为你安排一位口译人员。请致电：01746 713100。

FARSI

چنانچه مایلید این اطلاعات را به زبان خود داشته باشید، ما می توانیم مترجم در اختیارتان بگذاریم. لطفاً با شماره تلفن 01746 713100 تماس حاصل فرمائید.

FRENCH

Si vous voulez que cette information soit disponible dans votre langue, nous pouvons faire appeler au service d'un interprète. Veuillez -vous telephoner au 01746 713100.

GUJARATI

એ તમને આ માહિતી તમારી ભાષામાં જાહેતી હોય તો અમે દુભાષિયાની વ્યવસ્થા કરી શકીશું. 01746 713100 પર ટેલિફોન કરવા વિનંતી.

HINDI

अगर आप यह जानकारी अपनी भाषा में चाहते हो, तो हम इन्टरप्रेटर (दुभाषिया) का प्रबन्ध कर सकते हैं। कृपया इस नम्बर 01746 713100 पर फोन करें।

POLISH

Jeżeli chciałby Państwo uzyskać informacje w języku ojczystym, możemy zapewnić tłumacza ustnego. Prosimy o kontakt pod numerem 01746 713100

PUNJABI

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਨਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ (ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ) ਦਾ ਆਰੰਭ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 01746 713100 ਉੱਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

URDU

اگر آپ یہ معلومات اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو ہم ترجمان کا انتظام کرسکتے ہیں۔ 01746 713100 برائے مہربانی فون کریں

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Introduction

This overarching Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme applies only to the Unitary Shropshire Council Local Authority Area and does not include Telford and Wrekin. References to the 'county' or 'Council' refer to Shropshire excluding Telford and Wrekin, which is a separate local housing authority.

Affordable housing is provided by organisations collectively known as Registered Providers (RPs). In Shropshire this is a mixture of Shropshire Council owned and managed properties and those of Registered Providers of Social Housing, often called Housing Associations.

The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership is the means adopted by the Council and a number of other Registered Providers to determine allocation of housing stock through a jointly operated choice-based lettings scheme.

To maximize the benefits to applicants on the Housing Register, the scheme also acts as a means to provide nominations and referrals to other non-partner Registered Providers and Landlords.

The purpose of the Allocation Scheme is to determine the degree of housing need and priority for housing of those people seeking affordable housing in Shropshire. Shropshire HomePoint is a partnership between Shropshire Council and Shropshire Housing Group. Shropshire HomePoint holds and maintains the countywide Housing Register and advertises properties of member Landlords that become available for letting and sale.

Other prominent Landlords that allocate their properties through Shropshire HomePoint include:

- Bromford Housing Group
- Marches Housing Association
- Raglan Housing Association
- Sanctuary Housing
- Severnside Housing
- Shropshire Rural Housing Association
- Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing
- South Staffordshire Housing Association
- Trident Housing Association

Shropshire HomePoint

Shropshire HomePoint does not actually allocate housing. Once it is determined who has greatest priority for a property that has been advertised through Shropshire HomePoint, the relevant Landlord will review applications, check the information that has been provided on the application form is correct and then make an offer of accommodation based on eligibility, level of housing need and date of registration on the Shropshire HomePoint Housing Register.

Aims of the Allocation Policy and Scheme

The demand for, and indeed need for, affordable housing exceeds available supply in the county. Therefore this housing allocation selection scheme endeavours to meet the following aims:

- To allow for the greatest degree of choice possible in the allocation of affordable housing;
- To ensure that those who have the greatest need of housing have the greatest opportunity to secure it;
- To help contribute to the development of sustainable communities;
- To help the Council meet other identified strategic aims, including those surrounding Supporting People and prevention of homelessness etc;
- To assist in achieving mobility for existing tenants;
- To make the best use of available housing resources;
- To ensure that local people have preference in the allocation of housing in the county;
- To contribute to mobility within affordable housing;
- To promote independence;
- To contribute towards tackling social exclusion and poverty by creating an open and accessible system for allocating affordable housing;
- To contribute towards tackling discrimination;
- To enable the authority to meet its statutory duties – including duties owed to homeless households under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002;
- To ensure simplicity and transparency whilst minimising subjectivity;
- To contribute towards the meeting of strategic aims of Partner Landlords.

Statement of choice

Shropshire Council and the Partner Landlords involved in the Shropshire HomePoint Affordable Housing Allocation Scheme are committed to offering the greatest choice possible in the allocation of affordable housing in the county, whilst ensuring that housing goes to those with the greatest need.

There will be certain situations where choice cannot be offered in the allocation of housing, such as when a Landlord needs to make a direct let as a matter of urgency. These circumstances are detailed within the scheme.

With the exception of these limited circumstances, housing will only be allocated to applicants who apply for a specific property, and all applicants have the opportunity to bid for properties they are entitled to be considered for, having regard to household size and other eligibility criteria. The scheme operates on a weekly property cycle from a Wednesday to the following Tuesday with applicants able to apply (bid) for one property each cycle.

This enables those seeking housing in Shropshire to identify the level of priority they are awarded within the allocation selection scheme, to develop awareness of the availability of accommodation suitable to their needs within the county, and to make informed decisions balancing their need for accommodation with the availability of properties meeting their requirements. It will also enable applicants to make an informed choice about whether they wish to seek alternative solutions to their housing needs.

Whilst keen to encourage and facilitate geographical mobility, Shropshire Council will ensure that in determining priorities for housing, preference may be given to applicants who have a local connection with the county.

Shropshire Council is committed to extending choice of housing to those who are accepted as homeless under the statutory duties contained within Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, as far as is compatible with the effective use of Council resources and the provision of temporary accommodation. Consequently those accepted as being owed the full housing duty under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 will be given eight weeks from notification of acceptance within which to bid for properties through Shropshire HomePoint. If during the eight weeks they have not been bidding appropriately for a property, administering staff may bid on their behalf for each suitable property that becomes available and may change bids when an applicant has applied for a property that they are ineligible for. When a bid is successful for a suitable property this will then be considered a nomination for the purposes of discharging the homeless duty.

The homelessness duty may also be discharged through the offer of flexible tenancies and affordable privately rented tenancies.

Advice and assistance

Shropshire HomePoint is an internet web-based service and is unable to provide personal appointments. Shropshire HomePoint staff are however able to signpost applicants to other sources of advice and assistance including those of dedicated teams and organisations throughout Shropshire. In particular, assistance will be provided to anyone who may have

difficulty participating due to disability, learning disability, illness, age, not speaking English as a first language, or any other reason that might make it harder for them to fully participate within the scheme.

Information about the Allocation Scheme

Anyone who wishes is entitled to a free summary of the allocation selection scheme, which can be obtained from Shropshire HomePoint. A copy of this document is available to be downloaded from the Shropshire HomePoint website and from the Shropshire Council website.

Applicants to Shropshire HomePoint are also entitled to request details of information that has been used to assess their application.

When each property advertised through Shropshire HomePoint has been successfully allocated, the banding and registration date of the successful applicant will be made available on the website. This information should be sufficient for applicants to determine their prospects of success in obtaining housing, and roughly how long they are likely to have to wait to obtain such housing.

Information required for registration

In order to register with Shropshire HomePoint, a housing application form must be completed. The information requested on the application form is used to assess housing need and must be updated by the applicant should there be any change of circumstances. Shropshire HomePoint may also request general information to assist with assessing housing needs within the county at a strategic level. Further information may be requested if necessary to ensure proper understanding of housing circumstances and assessment of housing needs. This may include requesting information about previous behaviour (including household members), convictions and rent arrears.

Ensuring all the information provided is true and accurate is the responsibility of the applicant. Each Landlord will carry out verification checks at the point of offer to confirm the information on the application form is correct and also ensure they have completely up-to-date information.

Shropshire HomePoint may share information as appropriate within the Partnership, and with other agencies when and where this is legally required and when providing nominations and referrals to other agencies.

Applicants are advised to check carefully the full postage has been paid when sending applications or correspondence, as Shropshire HomePoint cannot collect underpaid mail.

How the scheme operates

In order to apply for a home with a Partner Landlord in Shropshire, an applicant needs to register with Shropshire HomePoint and can have only one active application. To register they must fill out an application form requiring relevant information about themselves and any household members they wish to have included in the application.

The application can either be completed using a paper application form or online through the Shropshire HomePoint website. Paper applications are available by post from Shropshire HomePoint, from Shropshire Council's Customer Contact Points or from participating Landlords.

The application will then be assessed by Shropshire HomePoint and placed within one of the housing needs bands explained below. Each application is also given a registration date. Once their application has been registered, applicants will receive details of their banding, a password to use when bidding for property and confirmation of their registration date.

All properties managed by the Partner Landlords that become available for letting (with the exception of those specified below) will be advertised through Shropshire HomePoint. The exact rent, service charge, for sale price, tenancy type and if applicable the length of tenancy will be clearly advertised on the property details. A definition of tenancy types is available to download from the Shropshire HomePoint website and from Shropshire Council's Customer Contact Points.

Those who are registered through Shropshire HomePoint can then bid (apply) for properties that are advertised, and Shropshire HomePoint will determine which of those bidding has the highest priority, using the guidance laid out below. The list of eligible applicants will be put forward to the Landlord, who will carry out verification checks to confirm that the circumstances on the application form still apply. Shropshire HomePoint does not allocate the property; this is a decision for the landlord. When making allocations, some landlords may apply additional criteria, for example where there are previous rent arrears. The individual Landlord's allocation criteria can be obtained directly from them.

When a property is allocated by the Landlord, notification will be given on the Shropshire HomePoint website identifying the band of the successful applicant and their registration date.

Local connection with Shropshire

Shropshire HomePoint operates an open Housing Register. The choice-based letting scheme aims to provide opportunities for anyone to obtain housing within Shropshire, whilst providing a degree of preference to people who have a local connection with the county.

Consequently, those who have a local connection are likely to be given additional preference for rehousing. Households with no local connection will usually only be successful in a bid for a property in exceptional circumstances or where no-one else with a local connection from the band they are in (or a higher band), who has bid for the property. Date of application will only be relevant if a choice is necessary between more than one applicant with no local connection.

Local connection is defined as:

- Applicants currently living in Shropshire Council Area
- Those that have resided in the county three of the last five years, where residence has been out of choice;

- Members of the British Armed Forces based within the county may be considered to have a local connection. Please see section below.
- Those who are employed in the area, other than of a casual nature;
- Those who have close family connections (see Glossary), who have themselves lived in the county for five or more years;
- The applicant was a permanent resident of the local area for five years as a child, and attended a local school;
- Those who need to move to Shropshire for urgent social reasons such as to receive / give support

Those with financial resources sufficient to secure alternative accommodation

Affordable housing in Shropshire is targeted towards those households unable to afford open market housing. Reduced preference against people in the same banding will be given to applicants who are considered to have sufficient financial resources to secure alternative accommodation. Financial resources will be taken to include income, capital and equity in property. Reduced preference may be given to households whose income and / or capital resources exceed £63,000 (reviewed annually)

This assessment will be carried out by Shropshire HomePoint, having regard to the financial resources of the applicant and the cost and availability of alternative suitable accommodation. The assessment will also have regard to special circumstances e.g. where an older person is committed to paying for care or support costs in order to remain living independently.

Final verification will be sought at point of offer by the Landlord. As with all other decisions made by HomePoint under this policy, any applicant who is deemed to have such resources will have a right of appeal against that decision. Please see Appeals and Complaints Section below.

Hard to let and for sale properties

For hard to let or for sale properties, should a period of 4 weeks pass from the date of the first advertisement without a successful applicant being found and the shortlists exhausted, Landlords will be able to advertise the property outside of Shropshire HomePoint. The property will still be let / sold according to this policy and the result published.

For properties subject to affordable housing planning conditions, this period is extended to 12 weeks. Please see next section below.

New Affordable Housing and local housing need

As part of the Local Development Framework the Council has adopted a Supplementary Planning Document on the "Type and Affordability of Housing". This document seeks to increase the supply of new affordable housing provided through the planning system to help

meet the needs of all residents in Shropshire. Some housing developments may be subject to special planning conditions or legal restrictions applied through Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) specifying local occupancy or employment conditions on who is able to live in the accommodation (known as qualifying persons).

These conditions are particularly relevant in our more rural areas and aim to ensure that people from the Housing Register with a Local Connection to a particular Parish or defined area ('Local Need') are given priority for rehousing, over and above those who do not have that connection. This means for example that an applicant in Bronze Band who satisfies the Local Need criteria may have priority for rehousing over an applicant in Gold Band who does not satisfy the criteria. The criteria used by the Council for determining Local Need are set out in the prevailing Supplementary Planning Document. Applicants who do not satisfy the Local Need criteria will normally only be considered for accommodation restricted in this way after it has been made available exclusively to qualifying persons for a period of no less than 12 weeks. After this period, the accommodation may be made available to people from a wider geographic area through the 'Cascade' process specified in the Supplementary Planning Document.

Local letting plans

The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership may from time to time agree a Local Letting Plan to achieve particular objectives in a neighbourhood or geographical area. Where a Local Letting Plan is in place, priority will normally be given to applicants who directly meet the criteria of the Plan. Details of each Local Letting Plan will be available on request from the Council and / or the partner Landlord. Advertisements for properties included in the Local Letting Plan will specify the required criteria. Some properties may also be restricted by S.106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Local Letting Plans are typically put in place to:

- Balance communities to achieve sustainable neighbourhoods;
- Ensure housing is available to support local employment and encourage local business development;
- To allocate empty properties brought into residential use;
- Deliver specific local strategic outcomes.

Letting privately rented accommodation

Private landlords offering affordable housing to households registered with Shropshire HomePoint are permitted to use additional criteria when selecting prospective tenants. The use of a Private Landlord's Letting Plan must be agreed with Shropshire Council and referred to in the property advertisement. The Plan must also be available to applicants on request. Where more than one applicant meets the criteria within the Plan, the property should be allocated to the applicants in highest housing need, as determined by the priority banding criteria within this Policy and Scheme.

Sensitive lets

The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership may from time to time identify specific properties for Sensitive Let. This means specific criteria will be applied to individual homes to achieve wider objectives. Where a Sensitive Let is identified, priority may be given to applicants who directly meet the required criteria. Advertisements for properties defined as Sensitive Lets will specify the required criteria.

Direct lets

Landlords in Shropshire may from time to time need to make a direct let of a property to an applicant in exceptional or urgent circumstances, for example to facilitate or maintain essential support arrangements, or who has very specific housing requirements. Properties identified for a Direct Let will be advertised in the normal way but will not be available for bids.

Direct lets may also be routinely made to address under-occupation of homes by existing tenants or to release an adapted property when it is no longer required.

Adapted properties

Properties which have been adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities will be identified when advertised. Priority will normally be given to people requiring the adaptations provided.

The Partner Landlords may occasionally need to hold back properties from the Shropshire HomePoint allocation selection scheme and directly let them when the property has been specifically built or converted for an applicant with an identified medical need/s or when needed for urgent management reasons, which could include, temporarily accommodating another tenant whilst urgent repairs are carried out to their home; public safety considerations under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements recommendations; witness protection; or providing an immediate move to protect the safety of an existing tenant. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. These properties will normally still be advertised by Shropshire HomePoint, but the advertisement will state that it is reserved for a direct let and other applicants are unable to bid.

Landlords will also have the right to withhold from this scheme accommodation in supported housing schemes if they consider it appropriate.

Target allocations

The allocation of affordable housing in Shropshire is a key strategic activity. We aim to balance allocation of housing to properly reflect the diversity of housing need within the community. To achieve this balance, target allocations have been agreed for selected housing needs and are as follows:

- Moving to independent living: 10%;
- Former members of the British Armed Forces (subject to eligibility): up to 5%;
- Bronze Band: 5%;
- Community Benefit: up to 5%.

Moving to independent living

The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership may enter into arrangements with specified supported housing projects and other supported or residential schemes whereby applicants who have been assessed as ready to move into settled independent accommodation will receive Gold Band priority. The project will contact the Housing Options Team when a resident is ready to move on through a managed process and an application will be taken from that resident who will then be awarded Gold Band.

The agreement between the Shropshire HomePoint Partnership and the scheme provider will require that, where appropriate, arrangements will be made for tenancy support.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

Former members of the British Armed Forces

Up to 5% of properties for each Partner Landlord may be targeted for Former Members of the British Armed Forces as defined in S.364 Armed Forces Act 2006, where the application is made within 5 years of discharge, they have a local connection to Shropshire and have served a minimum of 4 years with the British Armed Forces.

Those that have been dishonourably discharged will be considered individually based upon the circumstances and reasons for the discharge.

Other eligibility criteria will still apply.

Community benefit

Up to 5% of properties for each Partner Landlord may be targeted for Community Benefit. This is not intended to be prescriptive but flexible, arranged and agreed in advance with Shropshire Council to promote the best interests of the local community. Examples of a Community Benefit might include:

- Working Households, to promote economic growth
- Key Workers
- Those obtaining a Pre-tenancy Qualification, to reward potential good tenants who have attended and passed 'Good Tenant' training / qualification where applicable with individual Landlord schemes.

Other eligibility criteria will still apply.

Monitoring

Shropshire HomePoint monitors all allocations and reports them in a 'Quarterly Monitoring and Statistics Report' which is published and available to download from the Shropshire HomePoint website.

Exclusion from registration

Applicants in Shropshire can only be excluded from registration in two main circumstances:

- 1) On the basis of their immigration status as detailed in S.160A of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002.

Where the application form indicates that this may be an issue, Shropshire HomePoint will investigate to determine whether the applicant is eligible.

- 2) Where the applicant, or a member of their household, has been guilty of unacceptable behaviour serious enough to make them unsuitable to be a tenant. Behaviour would only meet this criterion if it was so serious that, had the applicant been a tenant of the Local Authority, the Authority would have been entitled to a possession order against them by virtue of the behaviour. This is a stringent test, relating to an entitlement to possession on the following grounds:

- Rent arrears;
- Nuisance or annoyance to neighbours;
- Conviction of using for immoral or illegal purpose;
- Damage or neglect;
- Any other breach of tenancy agreement;
- Conviction for arrestable offence committed in the locality of the premises;
- Domestic violence causing other/s to leave, or the applicant being required to leave;
- False statement to induce grant of tenancy;
- Premium paid for assignment;
- Tied accommodation - dismissed for misconduct.

Shropshire HomePoint will investigate the behaviour to make a determination of whether these conditions are met for exclusion from the register. Where exclusion is considered on the basis of behaviour affecting suitability to be a tenant, Shropshire HomePoint will also take account any recent changes in circumstances and demonstration of good behaviour.

Where required, applicants may be suspended for periods of 3 months to review this behaviour. The Scheme's intention is to minimise exclusion from the Housing Register and enable Landlords to determine suitability according to the property, situation and local community.

Applicants under Multi Agency Public Protection Panel Arrangements (MAPPA) may upon MAPPA's recommendation be excluded from registration and assisted separately.

Where an applicant is refused registration because of their behaviour, or that of a member of their household, they will be notified of the reasons and that they have a right to seek a review of this decision. Please see Appeals and Complaints Section below for further information.

Offers of accommodation

Applicants have a responsibility to ensure their contact details are up to date including, change of address, contact telephone numbers and email addresses. Shropshire HomePoint publishes a list of supporting information required at point of offer which applicants are expected to have available immediately for verification. Landlords in most instances will make offers of accommodation by telephone and will allow 3 working days for applicants to respond. If you do not respond within this timescale, the offer may be withdrawn.

Where the offer of accommodation is to those with a statutory homeless duty from Shropshire Council, they will be given 3 working days for applicants to respond. If no response is received the Landlord will notify the Housing Options Team and agree whether or not to withdraw the offer.

Those applicants, with the exception of those with a homeless duty, who have refused or have failed to make contact on 4 or more occasions within a 12 month period when suitable offers of accommodation have been made through the Shropshire HomePoint Scheme, may be declined further offers for a period of up to 6 months by individual landlords. The Landlord will write to the applicant and inform them of the reasons for their decision.

Determining priority for housing

Based upon the criteria detailed below, applicants will be placed in one of the following:

- Priority Band;
- Gold Band;
- Silver Band;
- Bronze Band.

Priority Band

Unless specified otherwise in this policy, Priority Band will normally be valid for eight weeks from date of award as notified to the applicant by Shropshire HomePoint or Shropshire Council's Housing Options Team. If accommodation has not been secured in this period there will be a review carried out. If no suitable properties have become available during the period the Priority Band will be extended for a further period, usually eight weeks, at the discretion of Shropshire HomePoint or the Housing Options Team. If the applicant has been bidding for suitable properties but has not been successful, the status may be extended. If however, the applicant has failed to bid for properties, or has been bidding for unsuitable properties, the reasons for this will be determined and if there are valid reasons the Priority Band may be extended, but where there are insufficient reasons, the Priority Band will be withdrawn and the applicant will be reassessed accordingly.

1.1 Statutorily Homeless with a Duty to Rehouse.

Where the Shropshire Council Housing Options Team has accepted a duty under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 to provide accommodation for an applicant who:

- Is eligible for assistance;
- Is homeless;
- Has a priority need for housing;
- Is not intentionally homeless;
- Has a local connection.

If statutory homeless applicants have not obtained accommodation using the Priority Band within eight weeks, the review outlined above will take place by the Housing Options Team to decide whether to extend the eight week period. At any point if the applicant has not been bidding appropriately for a property, administering staff may bid on their behalf for each suitable property that becomes available and may change bids when an applicant has applied for a property that they are ineligible for. When a successful bid is made for a property the applicant will be notified of this and, subject to rights of review under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended), this will constitute an offer of housing under Part VI as a discharge of the Council's homelessness duty. Should the applicant be rejected by the Landlord under their own allocation criteria, the homelessness duty will not be discharged and they will remain eligible for a further offer. If a suitable offer is refused the homelessness duty will be discharged and the applicant will cease to have Priority Band.

Under this heading, Priority Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

1.2 Agricultural tied accommodation is coming to an end.

The Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976 requires a local housing authority to use their best endeavours to provide accommodation for a qualifying displaced agricultural worker. S.27 of the 1976 Act requires the authority to be satisfied:

- That the dwelling-house from which the worker is displaced is needed to accommodate another agricultural worker;
- That the farmer cannot provide suitable alternative accommodation for the displaced worker; and,
- That they ought to rehouse him or her in the interests of efficient agriculture.

In reaching a decision, the authority may have regard to the advice of an Agricultural Dwelling-House Advisory Committee (ADHAC). The role of an ADHAC is to provide advice on the question of whether the interests of efficient agriculture are served by the rehousing of the worker, and on the urgency of the application. If the authority is satisfied that the applicant's case is substantiated, it is their duty under S.28 of the 1976 Act to use their best endeavours to provide suitable alternative accommodation for the displaced worker. In assessing the priority to be given to the application, the authority are also required to take into account the urgency of the case, the competing claims on the accommodation they can provide and the resources at their disposal.

Where the ADHAC recommends rehousing, the applicant will usually be awarded Priority Band.

Under this heading, Priority Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

1.3 Verified priority medical need, where a move will improve, or prevent deterioration of a medical condition.

This will apply where the applicant's (or member of their household) condition is currently directly affected by their accommodation and an urgent move is needed to have a positive effect on their medical condition, or where as a result of their condition their current accommodation is not suitable to their needs. An investigation will be carried out. For Priority Medical Need it is generally expected that the property cannot reasonably be occupied.

Under this heading, Priority Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

1.4 National Witness Protection Scheme.

Shropshire Council participates in the National Witness Protection Scheme. Applicants in need of urgent rehousing under this scheme may be awarded Priority Band and / or offered a direct let.

Under this heading, Priority Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

GOLD BAND

2.1 Assured shorthold tenancy S.21 notice to quit given.

This status will be awarded where the Shropshire Council Housing Options Team are satisfied that a valid S.21 notice to quit has been given and Shropshire Council would owe the full homeless duty under S.193 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

2.2 Relationship breakdown.

Where a couple that have separated and are forced to remain living in the same home due to financial or other limiting factors (e.g. a need to live in a particular area, but a lack of available homes in the private sector) and there is joint custody to a child or children (Please see Access to Children Section).

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

2.3 Young person leaving care.

Where a young person who has been looked after, fostered or accommodated by the Local Authority, is engaging fully with support provided, has had a duty to rehouse accepted by Shropshire Council and deemed to be within 6 months of being ready for independent living, they can be awarded Gold Band to enable a planned move on to independent accommodation.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

2.4 Moving to independent living.

The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership may enter into arrangements with specified supported housing projects and other supported or residential schemes whereby applicants who have been assessed as ready to move into settled accommodation will receive Gold Band. The project will contact the Housing Options Team when a resident is ready to move on through a managed process and an application will be taken from that resident who will then be awarded Gold Band.

The agreement between the Shropshire HomePoint Partnership and the scheme provider will require that, where appropriate, arrangements will be made for tenancy support.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

2.5 Shropshire Council has deemed your home to have category 1 Hazards, Bands A - C (Housing Health & Safety Rating System) that cannot be resolved or reduced to a Category 2 Hazard Within 6 Months.

This refers to the condition of the current accommodation. This will apply where the Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team has deemed your home to have the presence of Category 1 Hazards, Bands A - C according to the Housing Health & Safety Rating System that cannot be resolved or reduced to a Category 2 Hazard within 6 months.

Where existing Category 1 Hazards, Bands A – C exist but in the opinion of the Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team can be resolved or reduced to a Category 2 Hazard within 6 months, this Gold Band will not be awarded. Instead, an action plan will be agreed by the Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team with the applicant to progress remedial action.

Where there is a change of status of the Hazard/s, the applicant must inform the Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team who will carry out a reassessment and make a recommendation accordingly to Shropshire HomePoint with respect to banding.

Emergency cases will also be referred to the Housing Options Team for further investigation.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint acting upon recommendations from Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team

2.6 Verified Gold medical need, where a move will improve, or prevent deterioration of a medical condition.

This will apply where the applicant's (or member of their household) condition is currently directly affected by their accommodation and a move is needed to have a positive effect on their condition, or where as a result of their condition their current accommodation is not suitable to their needs. An investigation will be carried out. For Gold Medical Need it is generally expected that there is a serious and immediate need.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

2.7 Severe overcrowding - needing 2 or more additional bedrooms.

Confirmation of statutory overcrowding must be provided by Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team. Where statutory overcrowding does not exist, assessment will be based on the criteria detailed below in the Bedroom Entitlement Section.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint, in consultation with Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team.

2.8 A tenant of one of the landlord partners is under-occupying by one or more bedrooms and wishing to move to a smaller property.

Checks will be made by Shropshire HomePoint with the Partner concerned. This criterion applies only where the property is in Shropshire. Should a joint application be made with each applicant downsizing from a Partner Landlord property, the combined number of bedrooms being released will be taken into account.

Verification of the suitability of the property will be confirmed at point of offer by the Landlord. Assessment will be based on the criteria detailed below in the Bedroom Entitlement Section.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

2.9 People experiencing ongoing serious violence or harassment who need to move.

All applications will be taken seriously and will be fully assessed in conjunction with Partner agencies. Where the applicant is a tenant of a Landlord there may be liaison with the Landlord as part of the investigation. The Landlord is normally expected to try and resolve the situation before this criterion is awarded.

In some cases of harassment it may be appropriate to refer to the Shropshire Council Housing Options Team for further advice and assistance.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

2.10 Discharged from the British Armed Forces.

Where a member of the British Armed Forces has a local connection to the county, has served a minimum of 4 years and is going to be discharged within 6 months or has been discharged but been unsuccessful in finding permanent suitable accommodation, Gold Band will be awarded.

Those currently based within the county will be automatically considered to have a local connection. Confirmation of discharge papers and / or employment will be required. This criterion only applies to the member of the British Armed Forces. If part of a couple separating, this criterion would not apply to their ex-partner's application. Those that have been dishonourably discharged will be considered individually based upon the circumstances and reasons for the discharge.

In some cases it may be appropriate to refer the applicant to the Housing Options Team for further advice and assistance.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

2.11 A move is needed to give support to, or receive support from, close family members and/or move closer to local facilities

This would only apply where NOT moving would cause hardship: physical, emotional or financial hardship.

Under this heading, Gold Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

SILVER BAND

3.1 Loss of security of tenure.

This status will be awarded when a household has been found to be in; priority need but is intentionally homeless; is homeless without a priority need; and / or is homeless but is not owed the full homelessness duty by Shropshire Council's Housing Options Team under S.193 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

3.2 Relationship breakdown.

Where a couple with no dependents have separated and are forced to remain living in the same home due to financial or other limiting factors (e.g. a need to live in a particular area, but there a lack of available affordable homes in the private sector).

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.3 Verified Silver medical need, where a move will improve, or prevent deterioration of a medical condition.

This will apply where the applicant's (or member of their household) condition is currently directly affected by their accommodation and a move is needed to have a positive effect on their condition, or where as a result of their condition their current accommodation is not suitable to their needs. An investigation will be carried out. For a Silver Medical Need it is generally expected that there is a moderate and variable level of medical need.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.4a Shropshire Council has deemed your home to have Category 1 Hazards, Bands A - C (Housing Health & Safety Rating System) that can be resolved or reduced to a Category 2 Hazard within 6 Months.

This refers to the condition of the current accommodation. This will apply where the Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team has deemed your home to have the presence of Category 1 Hazards, Bands A - C according to the Housing Health & Safety Rating System that can be resolved or reduced to a Category 2 Hazard within 6 months.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.4b Shropshire Council has deemed your Home to have the Presence of Category 2 Hazards, Band D, (Housing Health & Safety Rating System).

This will apply where the Shropshire Council Private Sector Housing Team has deemed your home to have the Presence of Category 2 Hazards, Band D according to the Housing Health & Safety Rating System.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.5 Overcrowding - needing 1 additional bedroom.

Shropshire HomePoint may investigate by making further enquiries, such as contacting the Landlord. Assessment will be based on the criteria detailed below in the Bedroom Entitlement Section.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.6 The applicant is sharing essential facilities with a separate household not included with them in the application.

Shropshire HomePoint staff will validate that there is sharing of essential facilities such as, the bathroom, toilet or kitchen with a separate household. The application will also need to record members of the separate household and any relationship if applicable.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.7 The applicant's family is forced to live apart.

Where a family that has previously lived together find themselves in circumstances where it is impractical to reside in the same house, due to financial, work or other commitments.

The address of each member of family should be verified, with confirmation from employers; or relevant reasons sought. Where families are forced to live apart because there is no accommodation available for them to live together, they should be referred to the Shropshire Council Housing Options Team for further advice and assistance.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.8 Supported accommodation required.

This applies where an applicant has a need for accommodation with a greater level of support, that is available within the Shropshire HomePoint scheme.

For those specifically requiring Sheltered Accommodation, an assessment may be carried out to verify eligibility. Please see the Sheltered Accommodation for Older People Section below.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.9 The applicant has a child under 10 or is pregnant and lives in a 2nd floor flat or above.

A certificate from a doctor to confirm pregnancy and or birth certificate of child will be required. Shropshire HomePoint will establish which floor the property is on.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

3.10 Applicants in, or due to be in, permanent full-time employment (20+ hours per week) which will mean excessive travel (over 1 hour each way)

Your employer will be contacted to verify that you are in permanent full-time employment and the hours you work. We will also verify your home address and the length of journey time.

Under this heading, Silver Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

BRONZE BAND

4.1 All other applicants.

All other eligible applicants that do not meet any of the criteria for the other bands.

Under this heading, Bronze Band is awarded by Shropshire HomePoint.

Preference within bands

Properties will be advertised through Shropshire HomePoint as they become available and anyone registered with Shropshire HomePoint will be entitled to bid for properties, unless there is a restriction placed upon those entitled to apply for the property.

If more than one person bids for a property, preference will normally be given to an applicant with Priority Band; if no Priority Band applicant bids preference will then normally go to a Gold Band applicant; if no Gold Band applicant bids it will normally go to a Silver Band applicant; and if no Silver Band applicant bids it will go to a Bronze Band applicant. A bid for a property will not normally be considered if the applicant's household does not meet the size or any other specified requirements for that property.

If more than one person from the same band bids for a property, preference will normally be given to the person who has the earliest registration date.

Medical assessment procedure

Shropshire HomePoint will assess and verify medical need/s which is directly affected by the applicant's accommodation and where a move to more suitable accommodation is needed.

Information is taken from the application with any supporting evidence to determine if there is a medical need and level. In exceptional circumstances, an independent medical assessment may be sought.

Joint applications

Joint applications can be made by:

- A married couple;
- A civil partnership couple;
- Partners (including same sex couples);
- A Parent with a child aged 21 years or over;
- Siblings; and
- Other Special Circumstances to be agreed with Shropshire HomePoint.

Where a sole application becomes a joint application, the original or earliest registration date of the two will apply. Should they later wish to separate their applications, the dates at which they each separately joined will then apply.

16 and 17 year olds

Applicants aged 16 or 17 year old will be expected to have support in place where needed to help maintain their tenancy and will be required to have a guarantor/s to underwrite the rent, property condition and other tenancy conditions.

All 16 and 17 years olds will be referred to Shropshire Council Housing Options Team for a joint assessment with Shropshire Council's Children's Services. Following the assessment, Children's Services will determine how best to provide assistance in the immediate and longer-term.

People in prison

Applications will be accepted from those currently in prison provided other eligibility criteria are met. The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership works with a range of agencies to prepare people for release from prison and to prevent homelessness. While preparation for release may begin some time prior to release, bids made 1 month or more before the release date will not normally be considered.

Upon release an update application will be required and if applicable liaison with any support workers and agencies.

Emergency cases will be referred to the Shropshire Council Housing Options Team.

Sheltered Accommodation for older people

Unless specified otherwise in the property advert, Sheltered Accommodation is intended for older people requiring this type of housing with support. Minimum age criteria may apply dependent upon the Landlord.

Please be aware that Landlords may also require their own assessment to be carried out prior to bids being accepted or offers of accommodation.

Where appropriate, Landlords may advertise and offer Sheltered Accommodation to younger applicants depending upon the property type and medical need.

Bedroom entitlement

The criteria below, based upon the 'Bedroom Standard', is used for the calculation of bedroom need entitlement for this policy and is the automatic default setting for properties advertised through HomePoint, unless stated otherwise on the property advert. Where possible, adverts will show the number of bedrooms available and number of people they are suitable for to enable eligibility to be exactly matched e.g. 3 bedroom 5 persons. Adverts will also show if any restrictions apply to the type of household that can apply.

Landlords may have their own specific bedroom entitlement policies to take into account the housing stock they have available. It is their responsibility to clearly publish in the property advert any differences to the default entitlement and the reasons for this.

Those applying for properties should ensure their income, including housing and welfare benefits, is sufficient to fully cover all the rent and charges associated with the accommodation.

The number of bedrooms required for each household is calculated in accordance with age, sex, marital status composition and the relationship of the members to one another. A separate bedroom is required for each married or cohabitating couple, for any other person aged 21 years or over, for each pair of adolescents aged 10 to 20 years of the same sex, and for each pair of children under 10 years of the same or opposite sex. If that is not possible, he or she is counted as requiring a separate bedroom, as is any unpaired child under the age of 10 years. Additional bedroom/s required because of a medical condition/s will be considered as part of the medical assessment procedure.

For rooms only suitable for one person or a couple, this will be taken into account within the above calculation.

Pregnancy

Where a household member is pregnant, the pregnancy will only be taken into account once a medical certificate such as a MATB1 is received. Until the birth and the sex of the child or children can be confirmed the bedroom entitlement assumption will be set at the minimum number according to the above criteria.

Access to children

In the case of divorced or separated parents / guardians, a child will typically be expected to reside with one parent / guardian as their main residence. The other parent / guardian will not normally receive any bedroom entitlement for access visits. In exceptional cases, the

Shropshire Council Housing Options Team may exercise discretion, but would need to be satisfied that the child resided equally with both parents / guardians.

Fostering and adoption

Where a household has formal evidence that, subject to a suitable home becoming available, approval would be given to foster or adopt a child or children, they may be included in the bedroom entitlement calculation. Verification of fostering and/or adoption arrangements will be carried out at point of offer by the Landlord.

University / full-time study away from home

Household members studying away from home in full-time courses will not be considered in bedroom entitlement unless they are the main applicant.

Overnight carers

Where a household has formal evidence that an overnight carer or team of carers is needed 3 or more nights per normal week, a carer shall be included in the bedroom eligibility calculation.

Those applying for properties with an additional bedroom should ensure their income, including housing and welfare benefits, is sufficient to fully cover all the rent and charges associated with the accommodation.

Housing debt

Applicants with housing debt such as tenant arrears, recharges and mortgage arrears will be accepted onto the Housing Register subject to the Exclusion Criteria above and provided they meet all other eligibility criteria. Applicants with housing debt are advised to set up repayment plans and seek legal and debt advice if they have not done so already,

Landlords may have their own specific criteria concerning those with current and / or former housing debt including consideration of the amount of debt and efforts made to repay arrears.

It is expected that all Landlords, where there is the full Homelessness duty accepted by Shropshire Council or under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) or Witness Protection Arrangements in place, to fully engage with Shropshire Council's Housing Options Team to overcome any issues preventing applicants being rehoused.

Unless the Landlord has specific criteria in place and provided they meet all other eligibility criteria, the following will normally apply:

- All those with an outstanding housing debt must have or set up a repayment plan;
- Those with outstanding amounts of less than £400 can bid for and be made offers of accommodation;

- Those with outstanding amounts between £400 and £1000 may bid for and be made offers of accommodation providing they have a history of 13 consecutive payments at the agreed amount;
- Those with amounts exceeding £1000 may be suspended or excluded from the Housing Register until the amount has been reduced to below £1000, unless there are agreed extenuating special circumstances.

Verification of housing debt will be carried out at point of offer by the Landlord. It is the responsibility of each applicant / joint applicant to ensure they address outstanding amounts and set up repayment plans if required.

Convictions and unsuitable behaviour

All but those with the most serious convictions and unsuitable behaviour (see Exclusions) will be allowed to join the Housing Register providing they meet other eligibility criteria.

Shropshire HomePoint will investigate convictions and previous behaviour to make a determination as to exclusion from the Register. Where exclusion is considered on the basis of behaviour affecting suitability to be a tenant, Shropshire HomePoint will take into account any recent changes in circumstances and demonstration of good behaviour. Where required, applicants may be suspended for periods of 3 months to review this behaviour. It is the scheme's intention to minimise as much as possible exclusion from the Housing Register. When making allocations, some landlords may apply additional criteria, for example where there are previous rent arrears. The individual Landlord's allocation criteria can be obtained directly from them

It is expected that all Landlords, where there is the Full Homelessness Duty Accepted by Shropshire Council or under Multi Agency Public Protection or Witness Protection Arrangements in place, to fully engage with Shropshire Council's Housing Options Team to overcome any issues preventing applicants being rehoused.

Applications from employees, board members, councillors and their relatives

Applications are monitored carefully to ensure that all allocations are made in line with this policy and no favour is given to those with close links to Shropshire Council or Partner Landlords.

Where an application is made from one of these groups, Shropshire HomePoint will if required seek approval from the Landlord and if successful, the offering Landlord will inform the relevant Partner of the offer of accommodation as a courtesy.

Property adverts

Available properties are published each week. The scheme operates on a weekly property cycle from a Wednesday to the following Tuesday with applicants able to bid (apply) for one property each cycle.

The primary means to advertise properties is the Shropshire HomePoint website, but paper copies can be obtained from visiting Partner offices throughout the county.

Those applicants with email addresses will be sent a weekly link to available properties. Those applicants that have a local connection to Shropshire, have no internet access, are unable to collect a copy and with recognised Special Circumstances agreed by Shropshire HomePoint may be sent a copy by post on request

Those may also be sent the weekly property list by post.

Mutual exchanges

Where affordable housing tenants wish to swap their homes permanently, they will need to request the exchange directly with each of their Landlords. Shropshire HomePoint is not involved with Mutual Exchanges but should be informed if the tenant or tenants are on the Shropshire Housing Register and their circumstances change.

Non-partner nominations

Where a request from a non-partner Landlord for a nomination is received, Shropshire HomePoint will send them a list of potential applicants, based on housing priority and relevant eligibility criteria from the housing register and inform Shropshire Council Housing Options Team of the request.

Reciprocal arrangements

Shropshire Council may on occasion request or agree to rehousing from out-of-county Local Authorities and Landlords through a direct let.

Change of circumstances and reviews

Where there is a change in circumstances, the applicant must notify Shropshire HomePoint immediately, including contact details such as change of address, telephone numbers and email addresses. Change of address will require an update application to be completed and may affect the banding. An annual review of those registered with the scheme will be carried out to ensure that details are current and the banding correct.

Rehoused through the Shropshire Housing Register

Those that have been rehoused through the Shropshire Housing Register and Shropshire HomePoint and wish to apply for properties, will need to reapply and will be assessed on their current circumstances.

Applicants with a Homelessness Duty Owed by another local authority

Those applicants who have a homelessness duty owed or that has been discharged within the past 2 years by another Local Housing Authority will usually be referred back to the relevant Authority by the Shropshire Council Housing Options Team unless there are agreed exceptional circumstances.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The Shropshire HomePoint Partnership believe that it is a fundamental right for everyone to be treated fairly, with respect and dignity; in the implementation of this policy it will ensure that this right is promoted and upheld.

False statements and withholding information

Applicants are required to sign paper applications and certify online applications confirming the details they have given are correct to the best of their knowledge.

This scheme falls within the provisions of Part VI of the Housing Act 1996. S.171 of the Act states:

- (1) A person commits an offence if, in connection with the exercise by a local housing authority of their functions under this Part:
 - (a) they knowingly or recklessly make a statement which is false in material particular, or;
 - (b) they knowingly withhold information which the authority has reasonably required them to give in connection with the exercise of those functions.

Shropshire HomePoint is the local housing authority's mechanism for discharging its functions under Part VI of the above Act. Consequently where S.171 applies, Shropshire Council may bring a prosecution.

Where false information is found to have been given, the applicant may also be excluded from registration for a minimum period of 12 months with Shropshire HomePoint and required to reregister. Where false information has resulted in the applicant obtaining accommodation, the relevant Landlord may bring possession proceedings for recovery of the property.

If an applicant has been found to have deliberately made their housing circumstances worse to obtain greater preference on the Housing Register, their application may be excluded as above.

Appeals and complaints

Any applicant to Shropshire HomePoint has a right to make an appeal if they disagree with a decision made by Shropshire HomePoint such as excluding them from registration or the banding awarded them and / or make a complaint if they believe Shropshire HomePoint has done something wrong.

If an applicant wishes to appeal or complain against a decision made by a Landlord not to allocate a property to them when they have made a successful bid through Shropshire HomePoint, they will need to contact the Landlord directly and follow their individual appeals procedure.

For decisions made by Shropshire HomePoint, the applicant should appeal / complain in writing to the Shropshire HomePoint Manager. An applicant can also appoint an advocate and once appointed, Shropshire HomePoint will deal directly with that advocate.

There are two stages to the appeal / complaints process:

- Stage 1
The appeal must be made in writing within 21 calendar days of the date of the decision letter, stating the grounds for the appeal. The appeal will be considered by the Shropshire HomePoint Manager or nominated representative, and a decision will normally be given within 21 calendar days. In complex cases it may not be possible to give a decision in 21 days and may take longer. Where this is the case the applicant will be notified in writing prior to expiry of the 21 day period.
- Stage 2
If the applicant is unhappy with the decision made by the Shropshire HomePoint Manager they may request that a further review be carried out by the Shropshire HomePoint Board of Management or their nominated representative. This request must be made in writing within 7 days. Again a decision will normally be given in 21 days, subject to extension where necessary.

If still unhappy with the outcome of the appeal, the applicant may make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

A copy of the full appeals and complaints procedure is available from Shropshire HomePoint.

Glossary and definition of terms

Allocation Policy	This explains the rules that determine how Shropshire Council, HomePoint and its Partner Landlords allocate affordable housing properties. The Policy also outlines other housing options.
Affordable Housing	A general term used to describe the housing available for those eligible that cannot afford open market prices.
Affordable Rents	Affordable rents are fixed term tenancies from Landlords available to households eligible to be on the Housing Register with rent levels set at 80% of local open market rents.
Bidding for a Property	The applicant's way of telling HomePoint that they would like to live in a property. A bid of interest can be made by telephone, internet, by mail, SMS or by visiting one of the Partner offices.
Close Family Connection	This means a parent, child, brother or sister, spouse/civil partner, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandchild or grandparent
Choice-Based Lettings	<p>More commonly known as CBL. A simpler way to allocate affordable housing, by advertising available properties and asking applicants to choose for themselves the properties they would like to be considered for.</p> <p>It does not mean there are more properties available, but does allow applicants to apply for the majority of housing in 1 place and with 1 application form.</p>
Community Benefit	An allocation used to promote the best interests of the local community, detailing how the eligibility for a property departs from the standard criteria within the Allocation Policy.
Direct Let	Used in urgent situations where a Landlord directly allocates a property.
Eligibility	The term used to describe factors that match an applicant to a property. For example, the size of the household and the number of bed spaces in a property.
Housing Register	Is the list of all those registered with Shropshire HomePoint for affordable housing.

Key Worker	An essential public sector worker who may find it difficult to buy property in the area where they work.
Local Letting Plans	Used for a limited fixed period of time to achieve a wide variety of policy objectives and specifies how the eligibility for a property departs from the standard criteria within the Allocation Policy.
Mobility Schemes	Mobility Schemes are generally web-based organizations which enable affordable housing tenants to advertise their homes to swap with others across the UK. Please be aware that they may charge a fee for their services. HomePoint does not recommend or endorse any specific scheme, but does provide a list on it's website of the most well known.
Mutual Exchange	Mutual Exchanges take place when affordable housing tenants agree themselves they would like to swap their homes with each other. Permission must be given first from each of their Landlords.
Non-Statutory Homeless	A term that refers to homeless people or households to whom local housing authorities do not have a legal duty to make an offer of permanent housing.
Nomination	The term used when HomePoint provides a Landlord with the name and details of an applicant to a landlord for an offer of housing.
Registered Providers	Registered Providers of Social Housing include Local Authorities and Private Registered Providers of Social Housing (PRPSH). These are organizations that are registered by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to provide affordable housing. The PRPSH's are often more commonly known as Housing Associations.
Sensitive Let	A departure from or additional eligibility criteria to the Allocation Policy. Used for specific properties in the best interests of the local community.
S. 21 Notice	A formal document giving 2 months notice from an Assured Shorthold Tenancy to vacate a property.

S.106 Agreement	Some properties may be restricted under agreements pursuant to S.106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), imposing conditions on who is able to bid, such as including a local connection requirement.
Shared Ownership	This scheme allows first time buyers and others (in unique circumstances) to buy a proportion of a new home and to pay rent on the remaining portion.
Shortlist	A list of applicants that have expressed an interest in a particular property advertised by HomePoint.
Shropshire HomePoint	The name of the Choice-Based Lettings Scheme in Shropshire.
Social / Affordable Housing	The term used for affordable accommodation owned or provided by a local council or Registered Provider. Please see Registered Providers definition.
Statutory Homeless	A term that refers to people or families to whom a local housing authority have a duty to make a permanent offer of housing.



Communities Overview Committee	<u>Item</u>
28 October 2020	<u>Public</u>

Communities Overview Committee Work Programme 2020-2021

Responsible officer

Danial Webb, overview and scrutiny Officer

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1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper presents the Communities Overview Committee's proposed work programme for the year ahead. The committee has based its programme on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. During the course of its work programme, the committee will also

- scrutinise thematic priorities
- respond to emerging issues and
- follow up on previous work.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee members to:

- agree the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**.
- suggest changes to the committee work programme and
- recommend other topics to consider

3.0 Background

3.1 The Communities Overview Committee bases its work programme on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. It also

- scrutinises thematic priorities
- responds to emerging issues
- follows up on previous work
- carries out cross-committee work through task and finish groups.

3.2 The November meeting, which will look at the council and its partners' response to the flooding in early 2020, will be delayed until December.

3.3 At a meeting of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee, the committee requested that the Communities Overview Committee scrutinised the council's climate change draft action plan and quantified carbon budget in the Autumn of this year. As the committee's work programme already looks full in 2020, this item has been added to the agenda of the committee's meeting in January, subject to committee approval.

3.4 A refreshed overview and scrutiny work programme for this committee is attached as **appendix 1**.

4.0 Next steps

4.1 Overview and scrutiny updates this report on an ongoing basis and presents it to each overview and scrutiny committee. This will allow members the opportunity to contribute to its development at each committee meeting.

List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) None
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) All
Local Member All
Appendices Overview and scrutiny work programme Overview and scrutiny task and finish groups

**Appendix 1
Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2020 to 2021**

Communities Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Rough sleeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraise the impact of the Everybody In scheme to support rough sleepers during the Covid-19 epidemic. Scrutinise proposals resulting from applications to the Rough Sleeping Initiative fund. 	Committee overview report	Housing Services Manager Shrewsbury Ark	Shropshire Council supports adults who are, or are at risk of, rough sleeping.	28 Oct 2020
Homepoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the profile of need in Shropshire. Understand how Homepoint meets the needs of people in Shropshire seeking housing. Scrutinise a draft revised allocations policy. 	Committee overview report	Housing Services Manager Connexus Star Housing	Homepoint provides an effective service in providing housing for those in greatest need.	28 Oct 2020

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Communities Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To look at the response to recent flooding in Shropshire. To scrutinise the impact in towns and villages throughout Shropshire. To identify opportunities to further support people and businesses in Shropshire. To identify funding opportunities to minimise the effect of groundwater. To identify lessons learned from the review of the response. Understand the River Severn Partnership and the potential for minimising the impact of flooding. To measure the impact of grant applications and funding. 	Overview report	Head of Place Environment Agency West Mercia Police	Shropshire has effective arrangements in place to respond to flooding.	Dec 2020
climate change draft action plan and quantified carbon budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the draft action plan and budget, as requested by the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee. 	Plan and budget	Service Manager for Climate Change	The draft action plan meets the objectives of the council's climate change strategy.	25 Jan 2021
Libraries strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise Shropshire Council's draft strategy for the development of libraries and community services. 				25 Jan 2021

Communities Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Community Transport Task and Finish Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand how the local authority works with the third sector to provide community transport. To make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of public and community transport. To understand the impact of new funding available for public and community transport 	Committee overview report	<p>Director of Place</p> <p>Director of Adult Services</p>	Shropshire Council has an effective public and community transport system.	25 Jan 2021
Public transport funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on funding for public transport 	overview report presentation	Director of Place	Shropshire Council supports a well-integrated public transport network	25 Jan 2021
Rural Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise Shropshire Council's draft rural strategy To recommend a framework for engaging communities based on evidence of what works and is best for Shropshire. 	overview report presentation	Director of Place	Shropshire Council provides effective services to rural communities.	15 March 2021

Communities Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Local Housing Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise the creation of a local housing company in Shropshire 	Overview report Presentation	Director of Place	Shropshire's Housing Development Corporation builds homes that support the council's strategic objectives.	June 2021

Appendix 2

Current and proposed task and finish groups

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Financial Strategy and Innovation and Income Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To understand the process and activity stages for developing the Financial Strategy, and how these translate into the Council's annual budgets• To consider and scrutinise the proposals and emerging plans for the whole Financial Strategy and 2020/2021 budget, including how they align to the four pillars. This will be through their development and their implementation, in particular for innovation and raising income.• To consider the alignment of the Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan.• To consider the recommendations and areas for action identified in the Corporate Peer Challenge report relating to the Financial Strategy, and how they are being addressed.• To consider the direct and indirect impacts, including risks, of 2020/2021 Budget proposals on current services and customers.• To complete specific pieces of work to identify and work up alternatives to emerging plans, including the feasibility of any alternative proposals• Make evidence based recommendations in relation to plans and approaches for innovation and income generation, and alternative proposals for future budget setting.	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Road casualty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the nature of road traffic collisions in Shropshire. • Understand feelings of road safety, and the effect of feeling unsafe when travelling. • Understand the factors that contribute to safer travel • Scrutinise how Shropshire Council and its partners work together to make travel safer. • Explore how Shropshire Council responds to new models of Government transport funding. 	Place Overview Committee
Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand how community transport operates in Shropshire, and the demand for community transport services. • Identify how the community transport groups, the council, and other partners can work together to provide community transport to people in Shropshire who do not have access to public or private transport. 	Communities Overview Committee
Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the information brought together to develop a view for Shropshire of the possible implications of Brexit for the Shropshire economy and the achievement of the Economic Growth Strategy. • To identify, with the relevant officers, the key evidence and related requirements of what Shropshire would require from a future UK funding approach. • To make evidence based recommendations to Cabinet. 	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand how Shropshire Council currently uses Section 106, CIL and NHB and the impact that this has had • To understand how Section 106, CIL and NHB could be used in Shropshire to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity • To learn from other places how they have used Section 106, CIL and NHB to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity • To make evidence based recommendations on how Section 106, CIL and NHB could be used in Shropshire to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity 	Performance Management Scrutiny
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review Shropshire Council's existing work to reduce its CO2e output. • To scrutinise existing council policy and practice and recommend policy changes that would support further carbon reduction. • To identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce spending and generate income by adopting low-carbon technology and practices. 	Place Overview Committee
Dog fouling and dangerous dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To scrutinise how the local authority tackles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dog fouling ○ dog attacks ○ stray dogs • To review arrangements for licenced dog breeding 	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

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