

# Main Changes to the Policy

This is a summary guide and is not the Council's adopted Allocation Policy. The policy which includes full details can be accessed via <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/housing/housing-policies-and-strategies/housing-allocation-scheme>

➤ **Applicants without a housing need not eligible to join the Housing Register.**

*A Housing need refers to those in reasonable preference groups including those who are owed certain homelessness duties, occupying insanitary or overcrowded housing, need to move on medical or welfare grounds and need to move to avoid hardship to themselves or others.*

*Applicants' ineligible to join the register will include those adequately housed in the private rented sector and single people or couples with no housing need that are sharing a home with another household.*

➤ **Reduce the number of Bands from 6 to 3.**

➤ **Change the name of bands to 1 to 3.**

➤ **Removal of applicants who have not submitted a bid in a year.**

➤ **Removal of quota that gives applicants across bands A to E a share of the homes available each year.**

➤ **Bedroom Standard altered.**

*Same sex sharing a bedroom raised to 18 from 16.*



- **Removal of the policy line that allows families with two young children to secure three-bedroom properties.**
- **Those applicants owed homeless duties included on the Housing Register.**  
*Discretion applied to the statutory homeless duties meaning a staggered reasonable preference with highest priority (band 2) to those owed main duty or those in relief duty who are likely to be owed main duty. These applicants do not require an allocations local connection. Those owed a prevention or relief duty will be lower band 3 priority and are required to meet the Allocations Policy eligibility criteria including local connection.*
- **Priority banding for pregnant applicants or those with children who are sharing a home with family or friends and who meet the Allocation Policy eligibility criteria, are owed a homelessness prevention duty that has ended and have been allowed to stay at home for at least a year whilst they bid for social housing.**  
*Offers band 3 priority for 6 months which is then boosted to band 2.*
- **Housing debt exclusion.**  
*Those with rent arrears or other housing related debt of over £1000 will not be eligible to join the Housing Register or can qualify but not be entitled to be made an allocation of housing until the debt is resolved according to the criteria of the policy.*
- **Care leavers given the opportunity to bid on 1-bedroom properties and also band 1 priority.**

