

Housing Allocation Policy Consultation

Introduction

On 1 April 2023, all eight councils across North Yorkshire joined together to become one unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council.

At present, North Yorkshire Council operates two schemes for allocating social housing:

~ North Yorkshire Home Choice which covers all localities except for Harrogate

~ A standalone allocation scheme covering the former Harrogate Borough Council area.

The council must have a single housing allocations policy and scheme covering all of North Yorkshire in place by 1 April 2025.

The North Yorkshire Home Choice allocations scheme sets out how this is achieved via a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme. This scheme will apply to all households seeking to be rehoused across North Yorkshire and existing social housing tenants wishing to transfer.

The Allocations Policy Review will consider a number of areas that need to be revised or potentially introduced.

Have Your Say

When answering the following questions, please reference the draft policy at www.northyorks.gov.uk/housingallocations or request a copy by calling 0300 131 2131 (please say 'Housing Consultation' when prompted) or emailing housingconsult@northyorks.gov.uk

Please complete the following questions no later than **Monday 27 November 2023**.

Read our privacy notice to understand how and why we process your personal data at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notice>

If you prefer, you can complete this consultation online at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/housingallocations or scan the QR code below. The online form allows more space for your answers.



1. INCOME, SAVINGS AND CAPITAL

Q1 Applicants who are deemed to have sufficient income, savings, capital and/or assets more than £60,000 will not normally qualify to join the housing register.

Please note: This is a change for Harrogate applicants but is already North Yorkshire Home Choice policy so will not affect those applicants.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

2. LOCAL CONNECTION

Q2 Local connection will be required to the partnership area through family, employment or residency.

For the purposes of residency, applicants must either reside in the partnership area and have done for at least six out of the last 12 months or have previous residence in the partnership for at least three out of the last five years.

Please note: This is a change for Harrogate applicants but is already North Yorkshire Home Choice policy so will not affect those applicants.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

Q2a For the purposes of employment, applicants must be employed in the North Yorkshire partnership area on either a full or part time basis for a minimum of six months. Casual, seasonal, and voluntary work is not included. An employment contract must remain valid at the point of offer.

Please note: This differs slightly from the current North Yorkshire Home Choice and Harrogate Allocations Policies.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

3. EXEMPTIONS FOR LOCAL CONNECTION

Q3 In line with statutory guidance, we propose to exempt divorced or separated spouses or civil partners of Service personnel who need to move out of accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence from any local connection requirements and this is their first relocation after the end of the relationship.

Please note: This is not included in either the current North Yorkshire Home Choice or Harrogate Allocations Policies.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

Q3a We are proposing that care leavers (those aged between 16 and 20) who are owed a duty by North Yorkshire Council, or who are owed a duty by another Council but live in North Yorkshire, are exempt from any local connection requirement.

Please note: This is currently included in the North Yorkshire Home Choice policy.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

Q3b To comply with our duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, we are proposing that those who have escaped domestic abuse in another local authority area and are living in a refuge or other form of safe temporary accommodation in the partnership area will be exempt from the requirement to have a local connection.

Please note: This is currently included in the North Yorkshire Home Choice policy.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

4. RURAL INITIATIVES

Q4 In order to support rural communities, (settlements of less than 3000 population), properties in those areas may be restricted to those with a local connection to a specific parish. If there are no successful applicants, the property will be advertised to the wider partnership area.

Please note: This is currently included in the North Yorkshire Home Choice policy.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

5. FREE MOVEMENT ACROSS THE PARTNERSHIP AREA

Q5 Applicants will be able to bid on any property and will not be restricted to their locality area. This will apply to all applicants including those that are homeless.

Please note: This is currently included in the North Yorkshire Home Choice policy.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

6. REFUSALS

Q6 An application will be cancelled if an applicant refuses two suitable offers of accommodation made in writing within a 12 month period, or a single direct offer of accommodation.

Please note: This differs slightly from the current North Yorkshire Home Choice and Harrogate Allocations Policies.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

7. ASSESSED HOUSING NEED

Q7 Applications will be placed in either Emergency, Gold, Silver or Bronze band based on their assessed housing need. The definitions of each banding can be found in the draft North Yorkshire Home Choice allocations policy.

Please note: The bandings reflect the current North Yorkshire Home Choice policy so will not affect those applicants.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

8. ASSESSED BEDROOM NEED

Q8 The size of property that an applicant is eligible for is assessed by the family composition taking into account the number of children and their ages. A table can be found in the draft North Yorkshire Home Choice policy.

Please note: This is a change for North Yorkshire Home Choice applicants but is already Harrogate policy so will not affect those applicants.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

9. UNBORN CHILDREN

Q9 Generally, an unborn child is not counted as a member of the household until proof has been received that the child has been born, the only exception to this is where the applicant is within 12 weeks of their due date, and it is determined that they would be overcrowded in their current accommodation upon the birth of the child.

Please note: This is a change for Harrogate applicants but is already North Yorkshire Home Choice policy so will not affect those applicants.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

If you would like to add any comments relating to this proposal, please write in the box below. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else.

10. ABOUT YOU

In order to ensure fairness and people from all backgrounds and areas are represented, please take a few moments to complete this final section. The information collected is used to analyse the views of different demographic groups. There is no obligation to complete this section.

Q10 Which area do you live in or nearest to?

Craven Hambleton Harrogate
 Richmondshire Ryedale Scarborough
 Selby Outside North Yorkshire Prefer not to say

Q10a Please indicate if you are ...?

Current applicant North Yorkshire Council staff Participating Housing Association
 Partner Housing Association staff Resident of North Yorkshire Statutory Agency
 Tenant Representative Voluntary Agency Prefer not to say

If you are a current applicant, please indicate which scheme you are registered with

North Yorkshire Council Harrogate

If you answered 'Harrogate', please add any additional comments or concerns you would like to raise

Q10b Are you ...?

Male Female I describe myself in another way Prefer not to say

If you describe yourself in another way, please tell us below if you would like to. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else

Q10c Which age group do you belong to?

16-17 years 18-24 years 25-31 years
 32-38 years 39-45 years 46-52 years
 53-59 years 60-64 years 65-69 years
 70-74 years 75-79 years 80 years or more
 Prefer not to say

Q10d Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person or to have a long-term limiting condition?

Yes No Prefer not to say

Q10e What is your ethnic group?

White (including Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller) Mixed/multiple ethnic groups Asian
 Black/African/Caribbean Other ethnic group Prefer not to say

If you ticked 'other ethnic group', please tell us below if you would like to. Please do not include anything that can identify yourself or someone else

Q10f What is your involvement with the armed forces (Army, Navy, RAF and reservists)?

I currently serve with the armed forces I am an armed forces veteran I live with a serving/veteran member of the armed forces
 I have no involvement with the armed forces Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation form.