



**Public Consultation on the Draft North Northamptonshire
Housing Allocation Scheme
4th November to 15th December 2020.**

Dear Councillors,

On 4th November public consultation will start on draft proposals for how the new North Northamptonshire Council will allocate social housing when it is formed next April.

Councillors will be aware that all local housing authorities are required by law to have a scheme in place for determining priorities and procedures when allocating council and housing association properties.

Currently in North Northamptonshire, each of the four borough and district councils have their own allocation schemes, each of which are similar in operating a Choice-based lettings policy (where people choose and bid for their preferred property).

Officers from the Housing teams at Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough have been working together to harmonise these existing policies and bring them together into a single draft Housing Allocations Scheme for the new Council that will cover all of North Northamptonshire from 1 April 2021.

These proposals are now going out to consultation for six weeks, with residents, tenants and housing associations among the stakeholders being encouraged to give their feedback.

All comments received will help to shape a final version of the scheme which will then be presented to North Northamptonshire's Shadow Councillors for consideration early next year.

What the proposals cover

The proposed draft Housing Allocation Scheme will:

- Supersede the existing schemes covering Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough.
- Apply to existing applicants, new applicants and existing social housing tenants who wish to transfer.
- Keep the current Choice Based Lettings approach to allocations with which current service users and key stakeholders across the four areas will already be familiar.
- Aim to provide good quality, affordable housing to those in the most need whilst promoting sustainable tenancies and communities.

The draft scheme also sets out the proposed rules regarding:

- Who would be eligible and who would qualify for social housing in North Northamptonshire
- Who can apply and how the new unitary Council will process applications



- How the new unitary Council assesses housing need and determines who should have priority for social housing
- How the new unitary Council allocates social housing and who can be considered for what type of property
- How applications from those in the greatest housing need (including those that are homeless) will be managed.

How to get involved

The consultation will run for 6 weeks from 4th November to 15th December and people are being invited to give their views by completing a questionnaire. This can be viewed and submitted online at <https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/>

Alternatively comments can be emailed to futurenorthants@northamptonshire.gov.uk or in writing to the following address:

Allocations Consultation, Future Northants, c/o Kettering Borough Council, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, NN15 7QX.

For more information or to request paper copies of the questionnaire call 01536 410333.

What will happen next

Once the consultation closes on 15th December, all the feedback received will be collated this information presented to the North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive to consider when making their decision on the housing allocation scheme for North Northamptonshire. The full details of the updated scheme will then be published in early 2021, with the changes coming into effect in April 2021.