

Summary of key Policy Changes

Proposed change	Summary Information
1 Disqualification of those with no housing need	Likely to affect 802 of 841 in band 4. Band 4 will not be removed
2 Cancel housing applications where no bids received in preceding 12 months	706 applicants have not bid in 12 months, this is aimed at changing the culture to one of management of the register rather than allowing households to sit on a “waiting list – just in case”
3 Cancel applications where 3 offers have been refused	This would have only affected 12 in the last 12 months, but if implemented would ensure a more targeted and effective use of housing resources
4 More focused support of those in band1 and band 1+	73 households are currently in these bands and this is an increasing figure. Tailored housing based support plans is a principle already used for homelessness and used across the register, it will ensure expectations are managed and the widest possible housing solutions explored including the private sector
5. Added categories of the bandings	to better equip the Council to meet the new duties & responsibilities of the Homeless Reduction Act
6. Amendments to cumulative preference	Review with partners (particularly GPs) around how combined needs impact on priority to ensure housing need is not escalated for non-related issues, such as incentive to move schemes
7. Introduction of a financial threshold allowing access to the register only if they are unable to fund an alternative solution	This is based on the based on savings &/or income levels of the main applicant(s) against local income levels & house prices. Exemptions have been built in to take account of debts.
8. Strengthening of local connection	This is already robust in Tamworth but will be extended to ensure living or caring within Tamworth for 2 consecutive years and employment is having a contract for at least 12 months

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