



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing Allocations Policy



**Changes that may
affect your application**

Housing Options

From the 28th April 2014 Swale Borough Council will apply the new Housing Allocations Policy, full details can be seen at www.swale.gov.uk/housing-register/

The new policy introduces new criteria that applicants have to meet to be able to join the Housing Register. It will also ensure that the few social homes available are offered in a clear and fair way to those in greatest housing need.

To qualify to join the Housing Register you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have a housing need as defined in the new policy.
- You must have lived in Swale for any four out of the last five years. This will not apply to certain members and ex members of the Armed Forces.
- Your total household income is less than £35,000 per year.
- Your assets (normally property) and/or savings are less than £50,000.
- You do not have any housing or welfare benefit fraud convictions or cautions.
- You do not have any rent arrears or other accommodation debts owed to the Council, housing association or private landlord.

How many bedrooms will I be allowed?

Household Members

New Policy



Single Person/Couple Household



1 Bedroom Property



Single Parent Household



2 Bedroom Property



Families/single parent with two children of the same sex under 16 years old



2 Bedroom Property



Families/single parent with two children of opposite sex and the eldest is under 10 years old



2 Bedroom Property



Families/single parent with two children of opposite sex where the eldest child is 10 years or older



3 Bedroom Property



Families/single parent with three children



3 Bedroom Property



Families/single parent with four or more children



3 or 4 bedroom property

Banding

The number of bands has been reduced to ensure that social housing is available to those in most need of housing.

Band A: Urgent Housing Need

Band B: Serious Housing Need

Band C: Reasonable Preference

Band D: General Housing Need

Housing Register Application Reviews

If you are already registered your housing application will be reviewed in line with the new policy and qualification criteria.

If your housing need meets the new criteria you will be contacted and advised of your new band.

If your housing need does not meet the requirements of the new policy you will be contacted and advised that you no longer qualify to be included on the housing register.

If you do not qualify to join the Housing Register other information about Housing Options will be available on My Place at: <http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk/swale/>

Bidding

Kent Home Choice will continue to be the on-line method for customers to use to bid for social homes. The choice based lettings service is used across Kent and can be accessed at: <http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk/choice>

Contact the Housing Team:

If you would like to find out more, please contact us:



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Swale House, East Street
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www.swale.gov.uk

Copies of this document are available on the council website www.swale.gov.uk. If you would like further information, more copies or alternative versions (i.e. large print, audio, different language) we will do our best to accommodate your request please contact:

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