

# How we allocate housing is changing

Last May the Council introduced changes to the way we allocate Council and Housing Association properties. We have been reviewing these changes for the last 6 months and we think that some of the policies should be changed.

You can find out more about the proposed changes below.

## **Increase the time people need to live in Fareham to be considered to have a local connection from 18 months to 2 years.**

Following government guidance, we propose that the length of time someone has to live in Fareham to gain a local connection to the Borough is raised from 18 months to 2 years. This is a reasonable time for someone who has moved into Fareham to establish themselves before they can apply for the Council's limited social housing stock.

## **Awarding a local connection to applicants with strong links to Fareham**

Under the current policy, some applicants do not meet any of the local connection criteria despite having strong links to Fareham. For example, an applicant who had lived in Fareham for 30 years before moving away for work 5 years ago is unlikely to be allowed on the Housing Waiting List, unless they have a job in the Borough.

We propose that applicants who are able to demonstrate a strong connection like this to Fareham are awarded a local connection.

## **Removal of the 'No Housing Need' Band.**

This band contains a number of applicants who have applied for Social Housing who either have suitable housing already, or have enough income or savings to find their own.

We propose that this band is removed from the Housing Waiting List altogether. Applicants who are assessed as having no housing need don't have a realistic chance of being made an offer of housing. Allowing them to join the list or remain on the list, gives false expectations.

## **Have your say**

We would like to know what you think of the proposed changes above. Please complete [this short questionnaire](#) by 14 February 2014. Your answers will help us make sure that the way we allocate properties is right.