



Housing Allocations Policy

CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT APRIL 2025

A review of the feedback received to the proposed Housing Allocation Policy consultation.

If you would like more information about this consultation and the results presented in this report, or you require this report in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, Easy Read and alternative languages) please contact:

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The appendices are available to view in a separate document on our <u>consultation website</u> <u>page</u>:

APPENDIX A - SURVEY

APPENDIX B - ENGAGEMENT COMMUNICATION

Note: When stating percentages in the analysis, we are referring to the percentage of respondents that answered the specific question, rather than the total number of responses to the overall consultation. Response percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up over .5 and rounding down under .5. Words that appear in italics are quotes taken from comments received

METHODOLOGY

About the consultation:

- The engagement ran for four weeks from Tuesday 18 February until 11:59pm on Tuesday 18 March.
- An online survey captured resident's feedback on proposed amends to the Housing Allocations Policy.
- We consulted 16,255 contacts on the housing register about the consultation, along with 1,996 consultees on the councils' consultation database and 352 stakeholders, including housing associations and local town and parish councils. Posts were also shared on the council's social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, X and Nextdoor)
- 908 responses were received.
- 76% of responses were received from individuals/member of the public on the housing register and 17% from interested individuals/members of the public.

Reporting methodology

- A members consultation session was held on Monday 31 March for members to share their views on the proposal. Their views have been reported on separably within this report.
- An extension to the consultation period was granted to Faringdon Parish Council; however, officers did not have strong enough views for or against the proposal to comment.
- The quantitative data received from Soha Housing Association have been included within the results of this report, whereas the qualitative comments are being managed by the Housing Team due to the detailed nature of their response.
- The consultation asked respondents to provide their postcode to allow us to assess
 the geographical spread of the responses across the district. 866 postcodes were
 received. 55 were excluded from the postcode map as they are either incomplete or
 are outside of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts. The total number
 of postcodes plotted are 811 out of 866.

The survey gave respondents the opportunity to comment on the proposed Housing Allocations Policy. The policy required updating to reflect housing priorities in the districts and the following was proposed:

- Increase the income and savings threshold from £60,000 to £80,000.
- Increase the level of rent arrears allowed from £500 to £1,000.
- Amend the list of exclusions that relate to unacceptable behaviour.
- Increase the priority banding for homeless households in temporary accommodation from 'significant need for housing to 'urgent need for housing'.

KEY FINDINGS

Increase the income and savings threshold from £60,000 to £80,000

Over half (57%) of respondents agree with increasing the income and savings threshold, whilst 19% expressed disagreement.

Increase the level of rent arrears allowed from £500 to £1,000

62% of respondents agree with increasing the level of rent arrears, whilst 16% expressed disagreement.

Amend the list of exclusions that relate to unacceptable behaviour

67% of respondents agree with amending the list of exclusions, whilst 15% expressed disagreement.

Increase the priority banding for homeless households in temporary accommodation from 'significant need for housing to 'urgent need for housing'

72% agree with increasing the priority banding for homeless households in temporary accommodation, whilst 9% expressed disagreement.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DATA

Income and savings threshold

The councils proposed amendments to the income and savings threshold for applicants with combined savings and gross annual income of above £60,000 were historically disqualified from joining the housing register.

The income and savings threshold to qualify for inclusion had not increased since the policy was introduced in February 2019, therefore it did not reflect changes to income and inflation from 2019 until 2025.

The councils proposed to increase the income and savings threshold for exclusion from the housing register from £60,000 to £80,000 to reflect the changes in income and inflation since February 2019. This is consistent with the threshold set by Homes England for other forms of low-cost home ownership.

Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the proposal, with over half (57%) indicating agreement, whilst 19% expressed disagreement. However, the 151 qualitative comments revealed a more detailed understanding of the views. Of the 57% who agreed, only 9 comments explicitly expressed clear support for the proposal. The remaining qualitative feedback included a range of views and concerns such as the affordability of private housing, increased demand for social housing, potentially straining available resource and suggestions that maintaining a lower threshold would serve those in greater need, whilst others mentioned that individuals who would qualify may not actually require social housing.

How far do you agree or disagree with this proposed change to the income and savings threshold section of the policy?	Total	Percent
Agree	515	57%
Neither agree nor disagree	196	21%
Disagree	172	19%
Not applicable	20	2%
Not Answered	5	0%

Summary of comments	Frequency of comments
Affordability of private housing	45
Vulnerable residents/families: impact, prioritise, unfair system	23
Concerns around housing demand/increased pressure on the system	20

45 comments expressed thoughts on affordability of private housing, saying that the threshold is a considerable amount of money which should make private renting or mortgage options more accessible to some, therefore these applications should not be considered as part of the housing register. Comments included:

- 60,000 is lots, why would they need social housing if there were earning more than that.
- If people have £80k in savings or income then they don't need social housing they should be able to get a mortgage or rent privately so many more people on a lot lower income that would benefit

- I believe this should be lowered not raised. If you've got that kind of savings either the lower
 or higher amount you don't need social housing you can get a mortgage and leave the
 social housing to lower incomes people who cannot afford a deposit for a mortgage
- If they have that much they should not have a council house!

Other comments (23) highlighted concerns about vulnerable residents and families in the community who may be negatively affected by the proposal. Many felt that the system is already unfair to these groups and that they should be given priority. Specific comments emphasised the need to consider the impact on those who are most at risk. Comments included:

- Low-cost home ownership should exactly be that.....increasing the threshold is totally contradicting
- The register is for people on limited means and I think this increase is disproportionate
- Raising the income and savings threshold to £80,000 would significantly disadvantage those in genuine need of social housing. Social housing should be allocated to individuals and families who face financial hardship and lack viable alternatives in the private rental market.
- Social housing should be for the poorest people. If you have JOINT savings of 80k then it can be assumed that you also have a high joint income and should qualify for a mortgage.

Among the **20 comments** that raised concerns about social housing demand, the common sentiment was that the council is already struggling to meet current housing needs. Many feared that increasing the threshold would only add further strain to an overburdened system. Several respondents expressed doubt about the council's ability to manage additional pressure effectively. Comments included:

- By increasing the threshold more people will be on the housing register and there is already not enough housing as it is
- People with need for social housing already find it hard to find a property on the register this
 will mean more people can join and put increase pressure on an already full register with
 nor enough housing
- We need more houses please
- How would the increase of income threshold affect the number of properties available?

Rent arrears threshold

Historically, applicants were disqualified from joining the housing register if they have rent arrears over £500 and are responsible for the arrears.

The level of rent arrears to be excluded from the housing register had not been increased since the policy was introduced in February 2019 and therefore it did not reflect the rising cost-of-living, higher rents, and inflation from 2019 until 2025.

The councils proposed to:

- Increase the rent arrears threshold for disqualification from the housing register from £500 to £1000.
- Following agreement of a rent arrears repayment plan with the landlord, the repayments requirement would be amended from six months to one month for joining the housing register.

Payments under the repayment plan would need to be maintained, or the arrears cleared, for an applicant to be nominated to a property. Allowing applicants who are willing to address low-level rent arrears to join the housing register would help support low-income households.

This proposal would enable residents to join the housing register and allow them to demonstrate their willingness to maintain a repayment plan and enable them to potentially move to more affordable accommodation. The increased threshold for rent arrears also reflected the Universal Credit housing costs which are paid four weeks in arrears.

Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the proposal, with 62% indicating agreement, whilst 16% expressed disagreement. This resulted in 147 qualitative comments which have been summarised below in a table of frequency.

How far do you agree or disagree with this proposed change to the rent arrears section of the policy?	Total	Percent
Agree	567	62%
Neither agree nor disagree	175	19%
Disagree	150	16%
Not applicable	11	1%
Not Answered	5	0%

Summary of comments	Frequency of comments
Payment plans: verification required/concerns of adhering/affordability	23
Arrears are inevitable / expected	20
Incentivising / lead to more debt	13

The topic of rent arrears sparked discussions about payment plans, with concerns raised about residents' ability to adhere to them and how the process would be monitored. However, some respondents argued that rent arrears are inevitable, as vulnerable residents are the ones who require support. Therefore, they suggested increasing the threshold. Others, however, felt that this approach could incentivise debt accumulation, which would be counterproductive.

Of the **23 comments** that highlighted concerns with payment plans, some felt that affordability could be a challenge and emphasised the need for reasonable instalments to ensure residents

can stay in their homes. However, others raised concerns how this process would be monitored. 3 comments provided an alternative payment period. 1 respondent felt the current 6 months is sufficient to pay off any shortfall, whilst 2 comments supported 3 months, with 1 comment saying this is a good compromise.

- Yes I agree because the cost of living has gone up so much as long as the arrears is in payment plan then it's fine.
- There should be a 'review period' of 6-12 months to see how each part of this works in practice eg to ensure appropriate support for families where one partner brings the family into debt
- rent arrears are dangerous. People need to make sure they can afford something and make sure they can pay on time. Being in debt is not a good practice.

Other views (**20 comments**) were around rent arrears being inevitable and expected by vulnerable residents seeking support from the councils. Comments included:

- People can end up in rent arrears for all sorts of reasons that aren't their fault so this is definitely a step in the right direction but I also think this should also be assessed on individual basis!
- Some residents have got into arrears through no fault of their own.
- I can see how this easily happens going over by a small amount with bill increases all the time but it's not happened to us so neither agree or disagree.
- Rent has increased significantly so it is now normal for arrears to be £1000+ for those on universal credit or similar who pay in arrears

In contrast, **13 comments** expressed concerns that increasing the threshold could incentivise residents to accumulate more debt, while others noted the potential negative impact on landlords owed arrears. Additionally, some felt this change could leave residents in a worse financial position. Comments included:

- If someone is already proving they cannot manage their finances then the council should not be increasing the temptation to fall further into arrears.
- Doubling the allowable rent arrears threshold could incentivize non-payment of rent and
 place greater financial strain on housing providers. While it is crucial to consider the
 circumstances of tenants facing temporary financial difficulties, a significant increase in
 arrears allowance may encourage unsustainable debt accumulation. Instead, efforts should
 focus on enhanced financial support, advice, and intervention mechanisms to prevent
 arrears before they reach unmanageable levels.
- Landlords have bills to pay too and their problems must be considered too, it must not be made easier for tenants to get out of their responsibilities.

•	£1000 is a high amount. If they already have that amount in arrears, and rent would most likely be in the same cost range, how would one cope?

Unacceptable behaviour

Historically, the policy included an exclusion period for applicants previously guilty of unacceptable behaviours, such as historic offences, or offences that would not lead to them being evicted from a social tenancy. e.g. speeding offences. Additionally, applicants in certain groups are disproportionately excluded due to their life circumstances e.g. rough sleepers or persons with addiction issues.

The councils proposed to:

- Amend the unacceptable behaviour exclusion criteria to applicants guilty of indictable offences and/or anti-social behaviour that would lead to eviction from a social tenancy.
- Remove the disqualification period from joining the housing register at the end of a
 custodial sentence or eviction from up to two years and replace it with a requirement
 that independent evidence is provided that the applicant is willing to receive support and
 change their behaviour.

An applicant will not be nominated to a property without renewed independent evidence of changed behaviour. The applicant will also be assessed for their suitability to a particular property or area.

The amendment strikes the balance between excluding applicants who are unwilling to change and remain a risk to tenancy sustainment, against offering the opportunity of a stable housing environment to often vulnerable households that have already served their sentence or lost their tenancy.

Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the proposal, with 67% indicating agreement, whilst 15% expressed disagreement. This generated 128 qualitative comments which have been summarised below in a table of frequency.

How far do you agree or disagree with this proposed change to the unacceptable behaviors section of the policy?	Total	Percent
Agree	607	67%
Neither agree nor disagree	150	16%
Disagree	136	15%
Not applicable	8	0%
Not Answered	7	0%

Summary of comments	Frequency of comments
Antisocial behaviour: strict rules, disqualification/impact on communities	71

The topic of unacceptable behaviour generated many discussions around antisocial behaviour, including the impact this has on communities, some including personal stories of dealing with disruptive neighbours, whilst others provided their support for the proposal.

Focusing on the most frequently mentioned comments regarding antisocial behaviour—strict rules, disqualification/ impact on communities (**71 comments**). The majority (30) believed the proposal was not strong enough and stricter rules and monitoring of behaviour is required, with some suggesting an exclusion period of up to two years to allow time for behaviour change. Comments included:

- there has to be a strict method to ensure that any applicants given accommodation adhere to the terms as per the agreement.
- The consequences of bad behaviour should be that housing is tightly controlled.
- A second-chance approach is fair, provided that it comes with full scrutiny and the ability to take prompt action should abuse recur.

Other comments (19) felt that disqualification of applicants is needed if they have a previous history of anti-social behaviour, with some saying excluding residents for a period is sufficient, however, others felt strongly that they should be excluded from the register completely.

A proportion of comments (18) expressed concerns about the negative effects of antisocial tenants on communities, such a reducing the level of safety in the area and the quality of resident's lives. Personal stories highlighted the distress caused by living near antisocial tenants and the importance of prioritising communities first to ensure they are kept safe.

The remaining comments (4) included points around prioritising residents who have not perpetrated any crime or antisocial behaviour above offenders of antisocial behaviour, and one comment provided suggested text for the policy.

Banding for homeless households

To become a priority on the councils housing registers is determined by a banding scheme. Once residents are eligible and qualify to join the housing register, applicants will be placed into one of four bands:

- Band 1 Exceptional Need for Housing
- Band 2 Urgent Need for Housing
- Band 3 Significant Need for Housing
- Band 4 No Housing Need / Adequately Housed

Historically, homeless households in temporary accommodation waiting for suitable alternative accommodation, received a Band 3 priority on the housing register.

Homeless households in temporary accommodation are often vulnerable and the accommodation may be at a distance from support networks, schools, GP surgeries or employment. Temporary accommodation does not provide a stable environment for households to rebuild their lives. Providing temporary accommodation is a significant cost to the councils.

The councils proposed to increase the priority banding for homeless households in temporary accommodation waiting for suitable alternative accommodation from Band 3 (significant need for housing) to Band 2 (urgent need for housing) to help homeless households move more quickly into more suitable long-term accommodation.

Respondents were asked for their level of agreement with the proposal, with 72% indicating agreement, whilst 9% expressed disagreement. This generated 139 qualitative comments which have been summarised below.

How far do you agree or disagree with this proposed change to the banding for homeless households section of the policy?	Total	Percent
Agree	656	72%
Neither agree nor disagree	156	17%
Disagree	80	9%
Not applicable	8	0%
Not Answered	8	0%

Summary of comments	Frequency of comments
Support for prioritising homelessness	44
Case by case approach/ circumstantial	21
Concerns around housing demand/increased pressure on the system	21
Eligibility for housing	19

The qualitative feedback highlighted comments regarding support for prioritising homelessness, comments related to prioritising based on personal circumstances, having a case-by-case approach rather than a standard policy that fits all. Others raised opinions on housing demand/increased pressure on the system and who should be eligible for housing.

A considerable number of comments (44) showed support for prioritising homelessness, with many advocating homelessness is included in the highest priority level, whilst others support giving homeless people the chance to rebuild their lives in a safe environment. Some felt this

was a positive step and should help reduce wait times on the register, whilst others thought this should focus on the 'invisible homeless' who don't have suitable sleeping accommodation e.g. sleeping in vehicles, tents etc, not those that are in temporary accommodation. Comments included:

21 comments were in relation to approaching homelessness applications on a case-by-case basis / circumstantial. Many of the comments received had different opinions on who should be prioritised. Some comments raised concerns around applications that may intentionally make themselves homeless, therefore this should be investigated to ensure housing is provided to genuine applicants, whilst others said applicants that are due to illnesses, loss of job, domestic abuse and have been on the register for years should take priority. Others raised concerns around families with children in temporary accommodation.

Another **21 comments** raised concerns about housing demand and the increased pressure the proposal may place on the housing register. Residents expressed concerns about how the proposal might affect their current position, while others commented about the existing wait times. Other comments also highlighted the ongoing shortage of available housing and questioned how this proposal aligns with the current situation.

The remaining frequently mentioned comments (19) include who should be eligible for housing. These comments expressed a view on prioritising local British citizens over other groups, with some residents emphasising the need to support those who have lived in the area for a long time. Others questioned the fairness of the allocation process and whether some groups were being given priority over others.

Additional Comments

The final section of the survey invited respondents to share any additional comments they wished to be considered. A total of 198 free text comments were received and the most frequently mentioned comments have been summarised in a table below. The feedback highlighted a range of topics, including eligibility for affordable housing and priority status, a review of the housing allocations system, and concerns about the overall shortage of available housing and the resulting pressure on the system.

Summary of comments	Frequency of comments
Eligibility for housing/Priority	55
Review of the housing allocations system (bidding process/banding scheme)	30
Concerns around housing demand / pressure on the system	29
Housing affordability (affordable housing/rent)	11

The most frequently mentioned theme was eligibility for housing and priority status (**55 comments**). Many respondents expressed concerns about who should be eligible to join the council's housing register.

The second most common theme related to the need for a review of the housing allocations system (**30 comments**). Respondents raised various points, including concerns about the current banding scheme and the issue of both under-occupied and overcrowded homes. Some felt that tenants were living in properties larger than they required, while others highlighted the struggles of larger families facing overcrowding due to a lack of available homes. Some respondents also suggested introducing incentives for downsizing, noting that in some cases, rent costs remained the same regardless of property size.

Other comments focused on the housing needs of residents with disabilities. One respondent highlighted that adapted homes are often designated for those over 50, which can exclude younger couples in need of accessible housing. Another emphasised the importance of making detailed property information, such as room sizes and layouts—more accessible for people with disabilities to ensure suitability.

29 comments reiterated the views that have been mentioned in other sections of this report around housing demand and the increased pressure on the system. The remaining frequently mentioned comments (**11**) focused on housing affordability, particularly the cost of renting and new-build properties.

Quantitative and qualitative data – members consultation

A members consultation session was held on Monday 31 March to gather feedback on the proposed changes to the Joint Housing Allocations Policy.

A total of 12 members attended the session. They were divided into small groups (between 2 to 4 members per table) to discuss the key topics.

Increase the income & savings threshold from £60,000 to £80,000

The first discussion point focused on the proposal to raise the income and savings threshold from £60,000 to £80,000. A summary of the feedback received from the members tables in provided below.

Table 1 (2 members)

- Sensible to update figures
- Is an increase of £20,000 a reasonable increase?
- What evidence has been used to arrive at this figure.
- Increase to £75,000 would reflect 25% increase from inflation
- Does it matter? Doesn't affect housing need

Table 2 (3 members)

- Agree with proposal
- Needs to increase to reflect higher cost of living
- However, using one threshold doesn't reflect different household sizes, e.g., bigger households will meet the threshold more easily

Table 3 (3 members)

- Agree with proposal
- Allows for future increases in cost of living
- Will lead to increase in numbers on the housing register
- £80,000 suitable for certain household types

Table 4 (4 members)

- We can't house current numbers will increasing the savings / income threshold simply increase numbers who can't get housing
- Is £80,000 enough to be able to afford a mortgage?
- Is increasing the number of applicants in Band 4 of value?
- Should we have a different figure for affordable rent and social rent?
- Suggest keep at current level

There were a broad range of comments received but overall, there was general agreement with the proposal. However, some members raised concerns that the increase could place additional pressure on the housing register. Others questioned whether the proposed threshold would be sufficient for larger households.

Increase the level of rent arrears allowed from £500 to £1,000

The next discussion point was in relation to the increase of rent arrears. A summary of the feedback received from the members tables in provided below.

Table 1 (2 members)

- Prevention is better than cure joining the register early benefits the council reduces the need for temporary accommodation
- £1,000 arrears are easy to fall into these days.
- Is £1,000 threshold high enough?

Table 2 (3 members)

- Agree with the proposal to increase threshold
- However, £1,000 is not very high
- Doesn't take long to accumulate £1,000 especially for larger households

Table 3 (3 members)

- Agree that increase in the threshold is needed
- Is £1000 too low?
- 1 month repayment plan is insufficient but is 6 months too long? 3 months suggested
- Is this needed at all to join the housing register?

Table 4 (4 members)

- Agree with proposal to increase
- Should it be higher?
- Payment plan must be kept to and monitored

There was broad support for increasing the threshold for rent arrears. However, some members questioned whether the proposed amount was high enough, suggesting that it should be further increased.

Amend the list of exclusions that relate to unacceptable behaviour

Another topic discussed at the session was related to amends to the list of exclusions that relate to unacceptable behaviour. A summary of the feedback received from the members tables in provided below.

Table 1 (2 members)

- Current behaviour is more important than historic
- Need to monitor and evidence current behaviour
- Be given the chance to reform

Table 2 (3 members)

- Agree with proposal
- Counterproductive to exclude vulnerable people
- Needs clarity on exclusion definitions

Table 3 (3 members)

- Agree that people shouldn't be punished twice
- However, is changing from 2 years to zero too generous?

Table 4 (4 members)

- Agree with the proposal
- · Needs to be clearer that the offences are housing related
- Indicatable offences related to housing
- ASB should lead to exclusion
- Speeding shouldn't
- Ok for the landlord if able to offer introductory / probationary tenancies

The discussions generated mixed feedback. While many members supported the proposed changes, there was agreement that behaviour needed ongoing monitoring. Additionally, some members called for clearer definitions of exclusions and specific offences.

Increase the priority banding for homeless households in temporary accommodation from significant housing need to urgent housing need

The final topic discussed at the session related to priority banding for homeless households in temporary accommodation. A summary of the feedback received from the members tables in provided below.

Table 1 (2 members)

- Positive
- Reduces expense
- · Surprised not offered sooner / already in place
- Risk of perverse incentive

Table 2 (3 members)

- Agree with the proposal
- Takes understanding of the full system

Table 3 (3 members)

- Agree with proposal
- However, don't want Band 2 to become meaningless

Table 4 (4 members)

Agree with proposal

All members expressed support for this change, with one remarking that it should have been implemented earlier. Another comment raised concerns that this change might result in Band 2 becoming meaningless.

About the respondents

This section of the report provides the quantitative data received to the Housing Allocations Policy consultation.

Are you responding as:

76% of respondents responded to the consultation as an individual/member of the public on the housing register.

Option	Total	Percent
An individual/member of the public on the housing register	692	76%
An interested individual/member of the public	159	17%
A business/organisation	13	1%
A district, county or town/parish officer	2	0%
A district, county or town/parish council	4	0%
A district, county or town/parish councillor	11	1%
Other (please specify below):	23	2%
Not Answered	4	0%

If you are responding on behalf of a business, organisation or council, please provide its name below.

72 businesses/organisations, town/parish councils, councillors and officers provided their name below.

Aster Group

Aviation Security - security screening of liquids &

gels in all container types

Berrick Salome Parish Council

Blavatnik School of Government. Oxford University

Cherwell District Council
Chinnor Parish Council

Chinnor Turf and Paving Co Ltd

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale

Connection Support Housing Support Service

Connection Support Stepdown Service

Connection Support X2

Council X2

Design and build

Home

Homeless Oxfordshire X2

Mapledurham Parish Council

Medigold Health

Nettlebed Parish Council

Network Rail

Nippon Express

Oxford - Connection Support

Oxford Council

Oxfordshire County Council X2

Shared Lives Oxfordshire

SNG

SODC, Wallingford Town Council

Soha Housing **X4**South and Vale

Sovereign

Talent

TDIIA

TDHA

Thame Community Land Trust Limited

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Uffington Parish Council

Vale of white horse

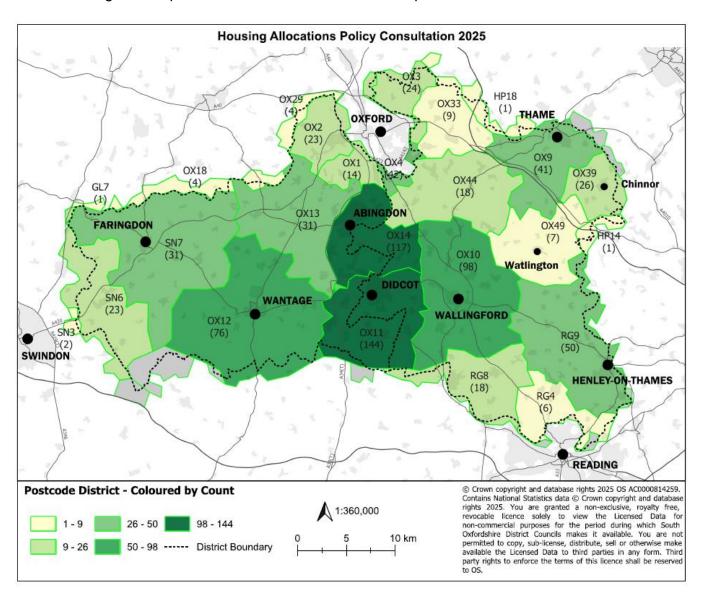
So we can understand if we've reached everyone we need to, please tell us the first part of your postcode in the box below, e.g. OX11 7

This question was included in the survey to allow us to assess the geographical spread of the responses across the district.

811 postcodes were received. The most frequently mentioned are provided below. 59% of postcodes were received from the following locations:

- Didcot (OX11) 144 postcodes (18%)
- Abingdon (OX14) 117 postcodes (14%)
- Wallingford (OX10) 98 postcodes (12%)
- Wantage (OX12) 76 postcodes (9%)
- Henley (RG9) 50 postcodes (6%)

The remaining 41% of postcodes can be viewed on the map below.



What is your sex?

Respondents were asked what their sex is, 63% are females and 30% are males.

Option	Total	Percent
Female	574	63%
Male	273	30%
Prefer not to say	48	5%
Not Answered	13	1%

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

The vast majority of respondents (92%) said 'yes' and 1% said 'no.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	836	92%
Prefer not to say	37	4%
No (please specify below)	12	1%
Not Answered	23	2%

How old are you?

23% of respondents are aged between 35 to 44 years old, 19% are between 25 to 34 and 15% are aged 55 to 64.

Option	Total	Percent
Under 16	0	0%
16-24	45	5%
25-34	173	19%
35-44	214	23%
45-54	155	17%
55-64	141	15%
65-74	86	9%
75+	42	5%
Prefer not to say	41	4%
Not Answered	11	1%

What is your ethnic group?

69% of respondents are from a 'White British - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish' ethnic group.

Option	Total	Percent
White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British	628	69%
White - Irish	12	1%
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0%
White - Roma	8	0%
Any other White background (you can specify below)	105	11%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	7	0%

Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	9	0%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	3	0%
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	3	0%
Any other Asian background (you can specify below)	10	1%
Black, Black British- Caribbean	5	0%
Black, Black British- African background	18	2%
Any other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African background	8	0%
(you can specify below)		
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean	7	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black African	0	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Asian	4	0%
Any other Mixed or Multiple background (you can specify below)	3	0%
Any other ethnic Group - Arab	3	0%
Any other ethnic Group (you can specify below)	9	0%
Prefer not to say	42	5%
Not Answered	24	3%

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illness lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?

55% of respondents do not have a physical or mental health condition lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more, whilst 33% stated they do.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	298	33%
No	500	55%
Prefer not to say	94	10%
Not Answered	16	2%

Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?

Of the respondents that said they have a physical or mental health condition or illness (33%), 14% said the condition or illness has reduced their ability to carry out day to day activities by 'a lot.', whilst another 14% said by 'a little'.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, a lot	131	14%
Yes, a little	132	14%
Not at all	35	4%
Not Answered	610	67%

END.