

## **Appendix 6- summary of focus groups**

A total of 13 residents attended two independently facilitated focus groups as part of the consultation on the proposed changes to the Housing Allocations Scheme and the introduction of a Placements Policy.

The first group was made up of Citizens Panel members from a range of housing tenures and the second group was made up of current housing applicants.

### **LBB Citizen Panel**

- 7 residents attended from a range of housing tenures (council, private rented, home ownership).
- The majority felt the one offer policy was reasonable as long as applicants got as much information about the property, e.g.: dimensions before they picked it from the portfolio shown to them and then had a chance to view inside before making their decision.
- The majority felt that taking account of affordability was also crucial and all felt that the placement policy was appropriate as long as all factors are taken into consideration such as support to access services, employment, schools, etc.
- With regard to the other minor issues they were agreeable to them all.

### **Tenant/Applicant Panel**

- 5 attendees although only 4 commented as one had to leave very early in the session. The majority were or thought they were in temporary accommodation and all had children.
- None of them favoured the one offer policy as they were concerned that the property would be unsuitable. The attendees were concerned about communication and lack of access to information from their officer about the progress of their application.
- With regard to affordability they were agreeable to this but felt that affordability of modern requirements such as broadband should be taken into account.
- With regard to the placement policy all disagreed with this approach. They understood the issues around lack of affordable housing and turnover of stock and the need to get out of temporary accommodation asap but again the issue of lack of communication and taking their individual needs into consideration was raised hence why there were negative about it.
- With regard to the other issues they were happy with all of them.