

Q1. OVERCROWDING Currently, we give four overcrowding points where physical overcrowding exist (as set out in our Allocations Policy) for every extra bedroom a household requires over and above the number they currently have for their own use. We propose to increase the level of overcrowding points to eight per extra bedroom required when there are two children of different sex currently sharing a bedroom, one of whom is aged ten years or over. This is to acknowledge the greater pressure overcrowding creates in these circumstances. Do you agree that overcrowding points should be higher in these circumstances?

| | Comments | Feedback |
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| 1 | Children are all different and all start to mature at different ages - think 10 is a bit old. Kids need there own space if its to do homework, play, relax and sleep. | Ideally, children would not be required to share a bedroom with a sibling if they didn't want to. However, the shortage of property means that this happens. By increasing the priority given to chilren of different sex (one over 10 years old) sharing a bedroom, the Council are able to prioritise those in most need. |
| 2 | Sex of children should be irrelevant - it should be for all. | It is generally recognised that when children approach puberty they may require more personal privacy - more so when the are sharing a bedroom with a sibling of different gender. |
| 3 | I am currently having issues with my 11 year old daughter who is sharing a room with my 6 year old son. As my daughter needs some privacy and her own space. | This Policy change will see more priority being given to families in these circumstances, as we recognise this as being an issue. |
| 4 | There shouldn't be any overcrowding | Agreed |
| 5 | Sharing a room by 2 children of different sex at 10 years or over doesn't give them enough privacy and can effect the mental health of those children. | Agreed |
| 6 | Extra priority if one child has special needs and equipment | The Health & Housing process can award priority in these circumstances |
| 7 | Its unfair that different sexes don't have their own bedroom as they get older as privacy is essential. | Across all tenure types there are limitations that mean some children may have to share a bedroom i.e. availablility of housing, affordability etc. |
| 8 | Put a dividing wall in the room and make two rooms. | Agreed - permission may be given if appropriate and safe to do so |
| 9 | I share a bedroom with my grandson | Noted |
| 10 | Wrong | Noted |

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| 11 | <p>I don't think the wording of this allows for transgender children. If there is a transgender child, they should be treated as 'opposite sex' from children of the same biological sex; this is needed to respect the gender they identify as. E.g. a transboy (biological girl) should not be expected to share a room with their biologically female sister when biological boys would not have to do so. However, they should also be treated as 'opposite sex' from children of the gender they identify as, as it is not reasonable to expect e.g. a biological girl to share a room with a transgender 'sister' who is biologically male.</p> <p>I also think you should get more points for this full stop. Overcrowding is an absolute blight on the lives of our children, and avoiding this should be a priority. I don't think it's fair that people that are e.g. homeless because they are leaving prison get more points than overcrowded children.</p> | Noted |
| 12 | <p>Our flat consists of 2 bedrooms and living room. The small bedrooms are occupied by children. The one is shared by two sons. Because the room is really small they have only two beds and one desk. There is only a small space (1M) to get to bed. The oldest son spends much time listening to music, this leads to a quarrel between sons. In the situation the youngest son sometimes shares the second bedroom with daughter. Me and Husband don't have a private space.</p> | Should the bedrooms be considered as single rooms, there is discretion within the Policy to assess the space available against the Space Standards - set out in the Housing (Scotland) 1987 Act. Management discretion applies. |
| 13 | <p>On top of this, you might want to consider disabilities. My younger is a male and disabled and he cant sleep with his sister regardless of age.</p> | Disabilities are taken into consideration by the Health & Housing process |
| 14 | <p>For young family that have been born, brought up went to local school and to be near family.</p> | Noted |
| 15 | <p>I have a 10 year old son and 6 year old daughter who now need their own space.</p> | Agreed |
| 16 | <p>I think different sexes should have their own room</p> | Agreed |
| 17 | <p>Think the points should be higher</p> | The priority for overcrowding is appropriate when all other factors are considered e.g. homelessness, health etc. |
| 18 | <p>Overcrowding should not be gender or age related, children should be entitled to one bedroom each.</p> | Across all tenure types there are limitations that mean some children may have to share a bedroom i.e. availability of housing, affordability etc. |

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| 19 | I had my son and daughter share room growing up and my daughter always had to get dressed in the toilet - wasn't the same didn't have any privacy. | |
| 20 | Not an issue which effects me personally but I agree children should be given privacy as priority. | The priority for overcrowding is appropriate when all other factors are considered e.g. homelessness, health etc. |
| 21 | Per room over occupancy even same sex should be considered (12 year old males or females do not wish to share a room with a 0+ aged child) Stops them having privacy or personal space. | Across all tenure types there are limitations that mean some children may have to share a bedroom i.e. availability of housing, affordability etc. |
| 22 | Think 8 points seems about right. It is not the Councils fault that parents wish to have a big family. 8 points seems fair. | Noted |
| 23 | My 13 year old daughter is sharing a bedroom with her 2 little brothers aged 7 and 10 months. We have no storage space. | Noted |
| 24 | I have 4 kids in one room 13, 12, 9, 6. | The Council's Re-housing Panel can assess and award priority for extreme forms of overcrowding i.e. two bedrooms short |
| 25 | Should not wait until child is 10 years. | Across all tenure types there are limitations that mean some children may have to share a bedroom i.e. availability of housing, affordability etc. |
| 26 | No child over 10 different sex or same should have to share older children need their space. | Noted |
| 27 | I do think that same sex children of a certain age are entitled to have space of their own. | Noted |
| 28 | Should not have to wait until one child is 10 years of age. | It is generally recognised that when children approach puberty they may require more personal privacy - more so when the are sharing a bedroom with a sibling of different gender. |
| 29 | Been overcrowded for 25 years and got nowhere | Noted |
| 30 | I think it should be 8 years not 10, my 8 year old son shares with his 3 year old sister and it's stress and upset everyday. | There is high demand for housing across all tenures. It is felt that once a child is aged 10 or over they should be given a priority award if they share a bedroom with a sibling of a different sex. |
| 31 | I agree points for overcrowding no one at the age of ten and different sex sharing a bedroom | Noted |
| 32 | Dependant on circumstances | Noted |
| 33 | I do think different sex children should have their own bedroom by the age of 7/8 years old. | There is high demand for housing across all tenures. It is felt that once a child is aged 10 or over they should be given a priority award if they share a bedroom with a sibling of a different sex. |

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| 34 | A single dad should be considered for a 2 bed house when he has joint custody of his 12 year old son. He shouldn't be asked to give up his bed when he is working a full time job!!! | There is a high demand for affordable housing. The Council could not justify, especially to those experiencing overcrowding, any child having two bedrooms - one of which would be unused for any period of time. |
| 35 | I think even 8 points is too few. I think 10 or even 20 points would be fairer as this is a big problem. | The priority for overcrowding is appropriate when all other factors are considered e.g. homelessness, health etc. |
| 36 | Even children of same sex should not share a room at certain age. | Across all tenure types there are limitations that mean some children may have to share a bedroom i.e. availability of housing, affordability etc. |
| 37 | Girls and boys I believe shouldn't share rooms. | As above |
| 38 | Not sure | Noted |
| 39 | The council should be prepared to partition a large bedroom to give children of different sexes a small room of their own. The parents should be willing to use a smaller room for the sake of their children. | Agreed - permission may be given if appropriate and safe to do so |
| 40 | Depends on how overcrowding came about. | Noted |
| 41 | Not sure about this question. | Noted |
| 42 | If 1 child is disabled I think higher point should be awarded. | Health & Housing priority may apply |
| 43 | Different sexes need different rooms after a certain age. | There is high demand for housing across all tenures. It is felt that once a child is aged 10 or over they should be given a priority award if they share a bedroom with a sibling of a different sex. |
| 44 | To many people are having more children than they can afford too. | Noted |
| 45 | Cant have brother, sister sharing | Noted |
| 46 | Would have helped us years ago when we had this issue. We built our own extension, obviously planning permission but loans etc to pay for it all to provide a bedroom so although ELC has a 3 bed house we never got any help towards it. | Noted |
| 47 | Two children sharing a room whatever the sex is, is not overcrowding. | Noted |
| 48 | This is something that shouldn't be left until last minute for legal reasons. ELC should have their on policy. | Noted |
| 49 | More people will get overcrowded so they get rehoused quicker. | Noted |
| 50 | People need space in the home, it does make a difference to your life, also for studying. | Noted |

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| 51 | Yes we strongly agree, a lot of families are waiting for years till they receive a chance to move to a bigger house. | Noted |
| 52 | My 16 year old son and 14 year old daughter are in this situation | Noted |
| 53 | I neither agree nor disagree since provision is already made for this. Especially since extra provision would not have any practical effect unless there were more properties available | Noted |
| 54 | I do not have any children | Noted |
| 55 | N/A | Noted |
| 56 | Overcrowding should not be allowed in this day and age. | Across all tenure types there are limitations that mean some children may have to share a bedroom i.e. availability of housing, affordability etc. |
| 57 | I have 2 daughters 5 and 10 and they are always quarrels because everybody wants to do something else and the older one needs privacy and there is none the younger one is still behind her. | Noted |
| 58 | Some families make themselves overcrowded by having larger families when they are in small houses! | Noted |
| 59 | I have 3 girls in 1 room age 13, 8, 7 and don't get overcrowding points which I think this is wrong girl age 13 should not share with her younger sisters. | Overcrowding points would apply in these circumstances |
| 60 | We have had children between 2 bedroom - it creates so much discord in families. | Noted |
| 61 | Yes I agree that the changed to 8 points from 4 points should be awarded to families with children of opposite sex to the other. | Noted |
| 62 | With homelessness and overcrowding challenging the council, why are potential loft conversion in some houses not a possibility or extension built on some properties. Surely this would be cheaper in some instances than building a whole new house/estates ... Which I agree are also very much needed. The house I rent was converted to extent the kitchen. This is a possibility for extra bedroom space. | Loft conversions and extensions may be considered where appropriate and safe to do so. |

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| 63 | <p>Overcrowding is a major problem! Applicants in general who have a need for a property with 4 bedroom are allocated a 3 bedroom house, those who need a 3 bedroom house are in 2 bedrooms and so on. It is no longer an excuse to provide unsuitable accommodation in this way. The council along with government know all to well the facts of these matters. You have a lot of hard working families living in your properties that pay their bills, rent and council tax along with income tax. This is the families that should be given priority when it boils down to overcrowding in my opinion. Myself I have and apparently will be entitled to a 2 bedroom as a single parent and father of 5 children which I have overnight 4 times a week and alternate 3 night. Being with this they live with myself half of all school holidays, so I know all too well about the non action of council in consideration and in action involved in these matters! NOT GOOD ENOUGH OR FAIR ENOUGH 4 BOYS AND 1 GIRL OVERCROWDED IN A 2 BEDROOM FLAT YOU TELL ME IF YOU THINK THIS IS OVERCORWDED? AND PUT YOUR WORDS ITO ACTION...</p> | <p>There is a high demand for affordable housing. The Council could not justify, especially to those experiencing overcrowding, any child having access to two bedrooms - one of which would be unused for half of the time.</p> |
| 64 | If tenants are long term in the area. Not immigrants | Noted |
| 65 | Not got any view | Noted |
| 66 | Everyone would like to have a bedroom of their own. Sharing takes away the luxury of private space. | Noted |
| 67 | N/A | Noted |
| 68 | Think it is unhealthy for boy and girl to share bedroom as at 10 they need privacy. | Noted |
| 69 | I think that a child having to be 10 or older isn't right it should be younger. | There is high demand for housing across all tenures. It is felt that once a child is aged 10 or over they should be given a priority award if they share a bedroom with a sibling of a different sex. |
| 70 | I have a son aged 11 and daughter aged 9 who share a room and I haven't had any help with only 4 points. | After implementation, the new policy position will now award a higher priority in these circumstances |
| 71 | But age difference could be lower. | Noted |
| 72 | We managed by adapting living room to combined bedroom | Noted - safety regulations must always be considered |
| 73 | Overcrowding can have an effect on mental health. More points should be allowed to be given. | Noted - safety regulations must always gi considered |

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| 74 | I'm currently only getting 4 points and my kids are ages 15 & 19, boy and girl both sharing. | After implementation, the new policy position will now award a higher priority in these circumstances |
| 75 | While there are still homeless people, children with different sex could share a bedroom if its big enough. | Noted |
| 76 | Shouldn't matter on gender, I have 3 boys sharing (aged 8, 7 and baby) and two of which aren't related! | Noted |
| 77 | I think it should also be considered same sex with different parents. | Noted |
| 78 | But I think the age of 10 for mix sexes is a bit much. 2 boys or 2 girls that's fine but a 10 year old boy sharing with a 2 year old girl doesn't sit right. | In these circumstances, the higher rate of overcrowding priority would be applied when a child reaches the age of 10 |
| 79 | I have a daughter and a son aged 3 and 2 when there older I will be looking at a 3 bedroom house. I feel like it is very important that kids of puberty ages have there own space as this can be a scary stressful time for them. | Noted |
| 80 | I have 2 sons 14 + 6 months plus stepson 11 at weekends all in one room. Overcrowding points are needed for these situations and should be higher. | Noted |
| 81 | This would encourage ethnic minorities to overcrowd unsafely | Noted |
| 82 | Everyone needs their privacy and should not be made to 'share' a room with they don't wish to. | Noted |
| 83 | This should apply to every council tenant. My daughter is in a three app but cannot get a 4, she has joint custody but not the main carer. Daughter 12, son 9 and stepson 5 all in one bedroom. | There is a high demand for affordable housing. The Council could not justify, especially to those experiencing overcrowding, any child having access to two bedrooms - one of which would be unused for half of the time. |
| 84 | I live alone in a flat | Noted |
| 85 | There is a long enough wait for housing as it is. | Noted |
| 86 | Doesn't apply to me or never will | Noted |
| 87 | My 7 year old daughter has questioned my son's morning erections which I am ashamed of and do not think a little girls should witness through no fault of my sons or her. | Noted |
| 88 | Yes I do agree if their are children off different sex to have a bedroom each. | Noted |
| 89 | I do believe children should not share room if they are different sex. | Noted |
| 90 | People wait a long time to get house I think there are some who abuse the overcrowding to get a house. | Noted |

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| 91 | I don't have kids I stay on my own | Noted |
| 92 | It doesn't remove the problem of families being overcrowded | Noted - this aims to recognise that overcrowding may have different impacts on families - depending on their circumstances |
| 93 | I think the overcrowding points are adequate enough. There is not enough social housing as it is. | Noted |
| 94 | I think age of children need to be lower, 10 years old is too old to be sharing with a different gender/sibling. | It is generally recognised that when children approach puberty they may require more personal privacy - more so when they are sharing a bedroom with a sibling of different gender. |
| 95 | Not fair on adults sharing a room (same sex) | Noted |
| 96 | I personally feel that 10 year old is high and should be lowered. The generation is changing and different sex children do require their own space and privacy | It is generally recognised that when children approach puberty they may require more personal privacy - more so when they are sharing a bedroom with a sibling of different gender. |
| 97 | I know a family where 11 year old boy shares with his 2 year old sister. I think it affects his education. No place to do homework or relax | Noted |
| 98 | It should be for over 8 years old due to sex education being taught in schools earlier | Noted |
| 99 | 3 bedroomed house, 3 boys age 15x2, 1 x10, 1 boy age 4, 1 girl age 9. Homes for life tiny. Mum and Dad in living room on separate sofas | Noted |
| 100 | Me and my son are in a box room and the room we are in is for my Mum as she has a lot of health problems | Noted |
| 101 | I have two daughter sharing a room - regardless of their sex - they need their own space once they grow up | There is high demand for housing across all tenures. It is felt that once a child is aged 10 or over they should be given a priority award if they share a bedroom with a sibling of a different sex. |
| 102 | Strongly agree - currently sleep on sofa at parents and as a single male have no overcrowding priorities for the situation I am in. | Noted |
| 103 | We do not want to go back to the time when overcrowding created health problems, e.g. TB | Noted |
| 104 | The wellbeing of children is vitally important, but again they should be a reason for points and not an excuse. | Noted |
| 105 | Parents with kids male or female should have their own room in the house | Noted |

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| 106 | Still think people who were born, work and live in local communities should be given the chance of housing if they have been on list more than 5 years | Noted |
| 107 | Although same sex children sharing where one is an adult or older teen and the younger is under 10 should be afforded the same points | Noted |
| 108 | overcrowding can make you depressed. | Noted |
| 109 | Need more one bedroom houses | Noted |
| 110 | Noting comments for area of play take up a lot of room/space and bedding/sleeping area even with same sex 2+ children | Noted |
| 111 | I live on my own and have been on the list for over 5 years and was forced to take private rented housing due to being homeless | Noted |
| 112 | Pensioners living alone are last then !! | Noted |
| 113 | The parent(s) need not necessarily be the child's biological parents, each parent having had a child in a previous relationship | Noted |
| 114 | I strongly agree children individually when older should have their own space | Noted |
| 115 | Sometimes you may have to give the extra points to two of the same sex if for medical or mental health | Noted |
| 116 | No youngsters should share over the age of 10 years | Due to high demand for affordable housing and the shortage in supply - children may need to share a bedroom with siblings. This applies across all tenures due to availability, affordability etc. |
| 117 | More council houses need to be built - large ones. | Noted |
| 118 | Get pregnant, get a house | Noted |
| 119 | Married couples should know how many of a family they can afford to bring up. Some couples now think the Government should give them more and more money rather than work. | Noted |
| 120 | The stress this must create in a family. Okay a younger age, from the age of, say, developing, age 10, opposite sex should not be sharing bedrooms for their own privacy | Agreed |
| 121 | I agree with this policy because I do not think in this day and age that different sexed children should be sharing. | Agreed |
| 122 | Surely if they are on the housing list they should * * * * (words ineligible) in my case it seems to be forgotten as received by the Housing Officer. I think it is disgraceful. | Noted |

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| 123 | People who have numerous children should not automatically be entitled to a bigger house - it was their choice to have more children and would be aware if their house became overcrowded as a result. | Noted |
| 124 | Age should be younger than this. Also if you have more than 2 children of the same sex you should also be given extra points for overcrowding. | It is generally recognised that when children approach puberty they may require more personal privacy - more so when the are sharing a bedroom with a sibling of different gender. |
| 125 | This is important for a child's wellbeing, Making sure that they have space to have time alone/homework instead of overcrowding. Impacts on education/health service | Noted |
| 126 | So, if you have 2 children different sex - they should have priority over people who have waited longer than them | Noted |
| 127 | If this means that anyone from a different place or country can just come to East Lothian and "Q jump" then I am against it 100%. You should deal with existing queues first | Noted |
| 128 | Circumstances must be taken into account. If working, on benefits, local people or people just moved to East Lothian. | Noted |
| 129 | This should include age differences within the same sex as older teens require privacy if sharing with younger siblings. The number of available bathroom/toilets should also be taking into consideration. | Noted |
| 130 | I agree for the sake of the children, but it annoys me that some people think it is ok to have large families even though they can't afford to feed or house them. It means people who are sensible and live within their means will always get leapfrogged in the queue. | Noted |
| 131 | Overcrowded properties causes major stress feeling suffocated and unable to breathe because people are living on top of each other. | Noted |

Q2. BEDROOM SIZE & OVERCROWDING

In most family sized houses, the bedrooms are suitable for two people. However, there are some bedrooms that cannot be considered suitable for more than one person.

In these circumstances, do you think it is appropriate to award overcrowding points if they are being shared? (Whether a bedroom is suitable for one or two people will be determined by housing legislation).

| | Comments | Feedback |
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| 1 | In new builds over the last 20+ years most bedrooms are too small (change sizes in new builds) | Noted |
| 2 | If the room is a box room and there is not enough space for 2 person. Also if the one of the person have health issues. | Agreed |
| 3 | Whatever suits. | Noted |
| 4 | But depends on the size of the rooms. | Agreed |
| 5 | If same sex then no reason for not sharing. | Agreed - if space standards allow |
| 6 | I feel that amenity houses should go only to disabled only and local people in the East Lothian area. Not outside the area. | Noted - all applicants on our housing list must have a local connection to East Lothian |
| 7 | Grandsons room is small. Small working space exists between bed and units circa 1.2m | Noted |
| 8 | The small bedrooms aren't suitable for two or three people. There are only 2 beds and 1 desk. The wardrobe is standing in the living room as well as a table, a sofa and a shelf with tv. This is also small space to move. | Noted |
| 9 | Can cause problems between the sharing people, kids of different ages bedtime, the older ends up waking up the younger sibling going to bed later. | Noted |
| 10 | I have 4 children and 3 bedrooms, however, 2 of my bedrooms are really small and are definitely for one person as there is no way you could fit 2 beds and wardrobes in the room. Currently we have to keep 2 of my childrens clothes in drawers and wardrobes in the hall and my 2 year old daughter still shares with us however, we have had our overcrowding points removed. | The proposed change to take bedroom size into consideration may result in a priority award if the rooms are deemed only suitable for a single person |
| 11 | Benefit of children being settled in one room. | Noted |
| 12 | 1 room per child | Noted |
| 13 | Every individual should be entitled to a personal space if a room is only big enough for one points should be given. | Noted |
| 14 | Myself and my son live in a 2 bedroom flat - it is quite small and my bedroom is the size of a large cupboard. | Noted |

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| 15 | My 3 kids share 1 bedroom | Noted |
| 16 | My sons have a 9 year age gap I am struggling with them sharing a room. | Noted |
| 17 | Need to consider single people living at home. | Noted |
| 18 | Yes any size of room being shared is not right. | Noted |
| 19 | If its a girl and boy sharing depending on size of room and people sleeping on a sofa and don't have enough rooms. | Noted |
| 20 | If a bedroom is only 2.5 meters x 2.5m then it is fair to say it is only suitable for 1 person. | Noted |
| 21 | You need two bedroom just in case 1 person is ill. | Noted |
| 22 | Although it has to be acknowledge that new build bedroom are smaller that older properties | Noted |
| 23 | Especially if it is male/female sharing | Noted |
| 24 | See question 1 | Noted |
| 25 | Teenagers need a room to themselves often only place they get to chill out. | Noted |
| 26 | Especially if one person has additional needs made need own space. | Noted |
| 27 | The big bedroom in my house is more than suitable for two children (boy or girl) | Noted |
| 28 | Yes, some of the older buildings have very small single rooms. | Noted |
| 29 | Bunk beds are the solution | Noted |
| 30 | Yes, points should be awarded | Agreed |
| 31 | A disabled child should have their own bedroom | Noted |
| 32 | If overcrowded with 1 bedroom should not be a lower cause then its hard for the person sharing. | Noted |
| 33 | And this should start with our own people | Noted |
| 34 | Yes I strongly agree because my daughter is in half size of a single room so I cannot get another wardrobe or chest of drawers in her room. I cant get her single bed in but it has to go a certain way otherwise her door does not shut. However her room is beside the bathroom but the bathroom has excess space compared to her bedroom. That excess space in the bathroom could extend her room a bit to chest of drawers. Her drawers currently sit in my hall instead of her room | Noted |
| 35 | Not if it is a couple or same sex children. There are people with different sex children that have to do so until reaching adulthood and moving out, so giving an extra room for same sex children is wrong | Noted |
| 36 | Depends what age the children are | Noted |

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| 37 | When children share a room at teenage years regardless of sex, as teenagers need their own space, to study, relax and timeout | Noted |
| 38 | Not got any view | Noted |
| 39 | Should be considered before house is let? | When a property is let initially, it will meet the needs of a family. However, families grow in size and can become overcrowded |
| 40 | N/A | Noted |
| 41 | Only if it is boy and girl sharing | Noted |
| 42 | People need their own space if you are confined to a small room share it could lead to a lot of disagreements. | Noted |
| 43 | If the same sex - disagree with this If opposite sex I agree. | Noted |
| 44 | If the bedroom is not suitable for two, as determined by housing legislation then it is overcrowding. | Agreed |
| 45 | Only if its different sex sharing if same sex they can share. | Noted |
| 46 | Same as before. While there are still homeless people in the streets - a small bedroom is still a bedroom for 1 or 2 people. | Noted |
| 47 | Sometimes bedrooms aren't suitable for 2 people not everyone is a couple. Some have disabilities or illness that require privacy. | Agreed |
| 48 | Some bedrooms may have 2 kids sharing but too small for 3 kids having to share. | Noted |
| 49 | My bedrooms can hardly fit 2 yet I have 3 in one room. | Noted |
| 50 | I agree only if the overcrowding is a plan to get social housing | Noted |
| 51 | No one should share a bedroom. | Noted |
| 52 | It should only be classed as overcrowding if 2 single beds can't fit in room with some space. | Noted |
| 53 | I am in 3 bedroom house live alone. Ask for a smaller house bungalow would be fine I will not move out of Port Seton. | Noted |
| 54 | I believe this depends on individual cases. For instance, we have three children. 12 Year old boy with Type 1 diabetes and emotional attachment issues, 9 year old boy, 7 year old girl. My children share 1 small room, no privacy. | Noted |
| 55 | A bedroom can be shared by two young children but teenagers will be better with a bedroom each if possible. | Noted |

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| 56 | Depends on their circumstances | Noted |
| 57 | We both need a bedroom each due to our illnesses, we both need toilet at night at different times also cannot sleep together due to noise and pain. | Noted |
| 58 | Every person should have own space | Noted |
| 59 | A lot of people like their own bedroom including children | Noted |
| 60 | Some people had 5/6 2AD/4Kids all in one bedroom flat, not saying that is the right thing, some overcrowd to get big house. More 1/2 bedroom houses should be built for rental as 3/4 to free up some of the overcrowd can free up more homes. | Noted |
| 61 | Depending on gender | Noted |
| 62 | Due to ill health for me and my wife 2 bedrooms are being used. | Noted |
| 63 | I personally shared small bedroom with brother for about 60 years. Mum and Dad was in main bedroom | Noted |
| 64 | on condition bedroom is checked and persons occupying room are confirmed to be sharing the room | Noted |
| 65 | My daughter is in the same room as her daughter who is 2.5 years old. She works but gets no sleep at night with her baby in the same room | Noted |
| 66 | Only if they have children. If you're on your own, the just one bedroom | Noted |
| 67 | I live in 2 bedroom, 3 kids. Council don't think am overcrowded, one kid 18, 16, 12. I have been on list for 20 years never been offered house. Other people less crowded gets houses. Not right | Noted |
| 68 | Depending on circumstances | Noted |
| 69 | But only if bunk beds. Still make the room too small for 2 people | Noted |
| 70 | Homes for life small room not fit for one. 2nd room is no narrow can only fit in bunk beds | Noted |
| 71 | The bedroom is too small for 2 people living in | Noted |
| 72 | 1nd bedrooms are never big enough for two people | Noted |
| 73 | Agree and as before people who do not have a bed to sleep in or a space to call a bedroom should be even higher in overcrowding than them that do have a bedroom, shared or not. | Agreed |
| 74 | I am in a one bed house but this is no good as I need family to come visit and I have no space | Noted |
| 75 | Overcrowding should be determined closely as to often it is used as an excuse for points, rather than a reason! | Noted |

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| 76 | Parents with kids male or female should have their own room in the house (same as page 2) | Noted |
| 77 | Some 2nd bedrooms are only single - but there are always 2 people in it (children) | Noted |
| 78 | Yes points should be given to those who share a bedroom | Noted |
| 79 | if small bedroom is shared by 2 people/children taking into consideration their individual belongings create clutter and can be a health hazard if bedroom is very small | Noted |
| 80 | No | Noted |
| 81 | When my children were young we used bunk beds | Noted |
| 82 | Some adults like their own space i.e. bedroom | Noted |
| 83 | A living rom with sofa bed could suffice for a short stay | Noted |
| 84 | Again I have a one year old and en eleven year old and I think it's unfair and not right for them to share. He and any other child should have their own space | Noted |
| 85 | If the partner is disabled then it is possible that person needs a room for herself or himself | Noted |
| 86 | If it's a baby they can share with Mum and Dad but no one older than 6 years | Noted |
| 87 | If 2 children of opposite sexes are involved | Noted |
| 88 | Age should always come in to it. I think kids over a certain age should have to share a room (I think because kids/young adults should have the space to grow) | Noted |
| 89 | Sharing bedrooms can be managed if bedroom organised properly same sex, similar sge | Noted |
| 90 | I don't think because couples have children they should be able to just jump the council housing list. I am also shocked to see the amount of private housing being built. I think it is disgraceful. The green belt is being abused in this way. I think there should be a stop to the private housing. They just leave couples in debt. It is jobs we need. I only hope the council stops building houses and leave the green belt alone. I have over 20 years in a sheltered house and just general I think it is a disgrace. | Noted |
| 91 | Individual assessment needed | Noted |
| 92 | Sharing a bed with my 12 year old son is a joke | Noted |
| 93 | Health reasons can mean that people cannot share a bedroom | Noted |
| 94 | This should clearly state what constitutes a small room, i.e a box room with two sharing is not appropriate. | The space standards as set out in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 would apply. |

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| 95 | Yes most modern properties are made in mind with more properties together more rent rather than building homes with space like they used you end up lucky having a room with enough space for just a bed. | Noted |
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Q3. APPLICANTS ACCEPTED FOR HOUSING UNDER HOMELESSNESS LEGISLATION

Our Allocations Policy currently awards varying levels of points depending on the applicant's reason for homelessness – this was to reflect the urgency of the applicant's need for re-housing but can mean that some applicants are waiting for longer and other homeless applicants can be offered rehousing ahead of them.

We propose to introduce a flat rate of points for all applicants accepted for housing under homelessness legislation.

Applications would receive the same number of points and be offered housing ordered by the date of their acceptance. This would prevent newer applications being housed ahead of older applications.

Do you agree that all applicants accepted for housing under Homelessness legislation receive a flat rate of points and are offered housing by date order thereafter?

| | Comments | Feedback |
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| 1 | However those with children should receive extra points to ensure kids are housed quickly. | Noted |
| 2 | People who are genuinely homeless i.e. on the streets, should be given priority, followed by sofa-surfers. | Homelessness legislation determines looks at an applicants reason for homelessness and circumstances |
| 3 | Depends how they were made homeless. | Noted |
| 4 | However, I think more points should be awarded to family with children. It should not encourage/be open to abuse i.e. single parents, pregnancy but in place to protect children. | Homelessness legislation treats all applicants accepted for rehousing equally. However legislation also limits the time children can be accommodated in emergency bed & breakfast before being moved to temporary housing |
| 5 | All applicants should be vigorously investigated to prevent false applications. | Noted |
| 6 | Depends on the person housing situation because one can be desperately urgent and other may not be that urgent need if they in temporary and secure but still need to be home for reason that is truly mattered. | Noted |
| 7 | Applicants circumstances should be reviewed. | Applicant's circumstances are regularly reviewed by their Response Officer |
| 8 | Homelessness is not an exact science so cannot should not be treated as such. | Noted |
| 9 | Please make sure to protect families with small children. | Noted |
| 10 | Families should be pointed higher than single people. | Noted |
| 11 | Anything that can be done to help homeless people get rehoused has to be a good thing. | Noted |

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| 12 | There are circumstances that should be prioritised, families, those fleeing domestic violence. | Noted |
| 13 | People get so angry when people jump in front of them even though there in the same circumstances. This would create more housing fairness. | Agreed. |
| 14 | People who still can't afford it into private rents. We have been waiting for housing for over 9 years. Struggling with a young family and a new baby. | Noted |
| 15 | I think if you are in homeless then you should be able to get a house regardless of points. Everyone deserves to be in a permanent house. | Noted |
| 16 | I think people's circumstances should be taken into account. Some people are more vulnerable than others. People with young children should be given priority, and also people who are ill or suffering domestic abuse. | All applicants will be treated fairly and given the same level of points |
| 17 | However, homeless applicants should have background checks. If they are up standing citizens and have not been evicted from previous and have means to contribute financially to rent/council tax etc., especially if single parent family, yes they should have priority. | Each person who presents as homeless or potentially homeless will be given an assessment that looks into their reasons for homelessness |
| 18 | 100% agree | Noted |
| 19 | Should be based on need and priority of circumstances. You could leave vulnerable people at risk. | All applicants will be given an assessment and treated equally. They will be offered emergency accommodation in order to meet their needs. |
| 20 | Very difficult to comprehend this - housing should be awarded according to necessity rather than date. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 21 | Some homeless people are made that way through no fault of their own and others make themselves homeless through their own actions. Some of them down to be home due to problems at home because of abuse etc., they should be helped with placement of some kind. | Noted |
| 22 | I think each and every person is different depending on how many dependents and their situation so not sure how to respond to this question. | Noted |

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| 23 | I disagree - I believe priority based on a family over a single person. Also depends why a person is homeless. If out of their control should be a priority. | Homelessness legislation treats all applicants accepted for rehousing equally |
| 24 | The time some people have been homeless is one single part of the whole picture, urgency might be dictated from other factors. | Noted |
| 25 | Don't think that can be so black and white. My son has been in private rented accommodation for years and 3 times has become homeless due to landlord selling house. My son + 2 mixed sex kids had to live with me & my husband. Kids are aged 16 & 13 on last occasion. | Noted |
| 26 | Homeless people, people living on the street, should be given priority over all other housing applications. | Applicants who are 'roofless' will be offered emergency accommodation |
| 27 | Not all circumstances are the same. | Noted |
| 28 | All persons to be treated the same | Noted |
| 29 | Homeless is homeless - I don't think it matters how the applicant became homeless. | Noted - however, the Council must apply the appropriate legislation when making their decisions |
| 30 | Depends on circumstances | Noted |
| 31 | Not sure this makes sense. Depends on reason for homelessness. Some needs may be more urgent. | Noted - all 'roofless' applicants will be offered emergency accommodation |
| 32 | Some extenuating circumstances should be considered above others (veterans, pregnant families, domestic abuse cases and such like) Discretionally awarded points system. | Noted |
| 33 | Elderly people and families should be housed as with people who have medical conditions. | The Allocations Policy is based on an applicant's housing needs and awards priority accordingly |
| 34 | Makes it fair as everyone may have different circumstances but everyone is still homeless. | Noted |
| 35 | Sometimes circumstances mean people need houses quicker. | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless' |
| 36 | If someone is homeless, they are homeless and should be treated the same. | Noted - however, the Council must apply the appropriate legislation when making their decisions |
| 37 | Yes keep everyone the same on points. | Noted |
| 38 | Think immigrants coming from abroad are getting in front of our people first, I am not being racist. | All applicants must have a connection to East Lothian i.e. working here (or else be awarded refugee/asylum seeker status by the Government). |

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| 39 | More should be looked into why they are homeless I know people who deliberately go homeless to get a house and one got one within weeks. | All applicants will be assessed regarding their housing circumstances and there is a verification framework in place. If found to have provided false information, the Council may take action to recover the property |
| 40 | Not sure what that question means | Noted |
| 41 | I live in a static caravan & for 6 weeks I am basically homeless as the park closes. The council have not been of any help for me despite an interview in 2017. From 3 January 2019 until 15 February 2019 I am sleeping in my car!!! I have severe arthritis and I am a pensioner. I am tempted to move to Spain to live because of this leaving my 7 year old son behind with my ex wife. | All caravan parks in East Lothian must close for a certain period every year - this closure would form part of your pitch agreement. You should take steps to find suitable alternative accommodation ahead of this closure. The Council's Housing Options Team can assist you tel: 01620 827827. |
| 42 | What happens to applicants urgency of housing if they have to wait in a queue. | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless'. Using date order means that applicants who have waited the longest will be offered housing ahead of others who have recently been accepted for rehousing. |
| 43 | When people i.e. young women with children deliberately make themselves homeless they should be overtaken by genuine homeless people. There should be background checks as to how and why parent/friends cause them to leave. | All applicants will be assessed regarding their housing circumstances and there is a verification framework in place. If found to have provided false information, the Council may take action to recover the property |
| 44 | People can stay on the list for years and never get a house as they end up going backwards. | East Lothian Council use a needs based allocations policy and each application is reviewed every year. Priority is awarded in relation to an applicant's housing circumstances and this may change over time. |
| 45 | My husband and I separated after being together 17 years. I believe there should be high points due to being a long term tenant of ELC as private let is too expensive. | All applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness are treated equally regardless of tenure |
| 46 | Dependant on why they are homeless. But retiring service men and women getting priority | The Allocations Policy recognises the service given by members of the Armed Forces and priority is given accordingly |
| 47 | This is a difficult one as I do think there are lots of different circumstances to be considered. | Noted |
| 48 | I agree as I know a lot of young people have had houses before others causing more upset for person who has been waiting more than 3 years to be housed. | Noted |

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| 49 | Giving everyone a flat rate of points would be the fairest thing to do. But unfortunately other things take precedence like children being homeless or people with disabilities or elderly. | All applicants will be offered emergency accommodation to meet their specific needs if required |
| 50 | Should be allocated on circumstances - e.g. ex-service men above seventeen years old who has made themselves homeless because they have 'fallen out' with parents. | Noted |
| 51 | Would like to see armed forced etc receive more point and homeless with health or disabilities. | Noted |
| 52 | Some people have had their name on the housing lost for when they were 16 years old and have had to take private let and they are now 35 years old. Homeless dependant on why they are some people are homeless because you are putting them in high flats with junkies and they cant get their children to sleep for noise. I know of a few people in this situation. | Applicants are prioritised according to their housing needs and specific circumstances. Anti social behaviour should be reported to the ASB Team or the local housing office |
| 53 | People staying in private rented accommodation waiting long time for council house. | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 54 | Am not homeless but I've been on the waiting list for 12 years even not been offered a house. I strongly disagree people coming out this country getting a house not even been on the waiting list - The allocations need to be addressed by council authorities. | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 55 | I do think this is a good idea but believe there will be individuals with extenuating circumstances. That would be unfair to force them to wait longer than someone with less of a need. | All applicants will be offered emergency accommodation to meet their specific needs if required |
| 56 | Point should be awarded depending on vulnerability and other circumstances, the number of children and other. | Our allocations policy is needs based. |
| 57 | Depends the reason for their homelessness. | Noted |
| 58 | Homeless also deserve a house. | Noted |
| 59 | This would make the system fairer but I also think there should be a link with job centres to find part-time work for these applicants. | Noted |
| 60 | I think need is greater than length of time on the list. | Noted |

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| 61 | I've been on the housing list I reckon about 14 years and never had a sniff of a house because I work. | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 62 | There has to be additional provision made for those with mental & physical health problems, vulnerable people, those with children. | Noted |
| 63 | All Scottish people should have accommodation except some people that abuse the house or flat. | Noted |
| 64 | This depends on the reason of homelessness. | Noted |
| 65 | Some homeless people have different lives so I'm not for giving housing to people who haven't got a job (14 hours) | Noted |
| 66 | I disagree as someone made homeless through no fault of my own I was placed in a B&B to far away on top of room rent, work travel and traveling to my kids it was 90% of my weekly wage on top other commitments. I still picking up the pieces credit defaults rent arrears etc. | East Lothian Council try to offer emergency accommodation close to support networks but this isn't always possible. We would hope to move a client closer when accommodation became available. |
| 67 | I personally think it depends on the circumstances. I also think that people given a house because of homelessness should actually live in it as I have seen this before where the person has taken a house and is actually living with a partner or family. | All tenants must occupy their tenancies as their main home. The Council would investigate incidences where it would appear that a tenant was not resident. |
| 68 | There may be extenuating circumstances i.e. disabled, possibly due to illness or accident or an elderly individual who becomes infirm unexpectedly. | Noted |
| 69 | Yes - people should be homeless short time as possible and not have others jump above in queue | Noted |
| 70 | Depends on persons individual circumstances | Noted |
| 71 | Not fair to people waiting a long time for a house. | Noted |
| 72 | I think this should be bases on individual circumstances | Noted |
| 73 | I feel date order is good, but a case by case approach is also appropriate as some applicant may be more vulnerable/in need of housing than others. | Noted |
| 74 | If have appropriate in size etc | Noted |
| 75 | Some cases people need a home quicker than others, but a homeless family with two children shouldn't be given a 3 bedroom house before a family with 3 or more children that are waiting on a bigger house. | Noted |

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| 76 | In some cases, people declare themselves homeless living out of someone's house. This surely cant be described as homeless either should the applicant be entitled to the same system as people literally 'homeless' | Noted |
| 77 | Sounds fair, however the application of homelessness legislation could be questioned. I know people looking to buy a house, but they received a house under homelessness legislation and decided not to. | Income is not taken into consideration when assessing homelessness. |
| 78 | Surely this is dependant on whether the applicant is single - a couple - or a family & what accommodation is available for the said applicant. | Households will be housed by date of acceptance. |
| 79 | Much fairer | Noted |
| 80 | I agree but this is a different choice since children may be involved | Noted |
| 81 | Cases involving domestic abuse etc. and/or young kids should be considered first | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless' |
| 82 | Unless the person waiting has serious issues health wise. | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless' |
| 83 | There are to many homeless people out their these days cause their is no housed for them or any benefit. | Noted |
| 84 | Should go on specific needs - disabled and people with children should take priority over singe able bodied individuals. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 85 | It would be good as it can push desperate people into private let which is more expensive and puts people into harder situation, as this has happened to me, just not long ago | Noted |
| 86 | Points should be added in accordance with applicant needs women and men with children differing from single men and women. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 87 | Yes I agree to 'first come first served' but when there is children involved I think they should be given help to be settled quickly so their routine is kept as it can be stressful moving around with a child. I am speaking from experience. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 88 | Individual circumstances should still be considered, e.g. health, safety | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless' |

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| 89 | Some circumstances are more urgent than others, i.e. domestic abuse or medical issues so should be considered urgent | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 90 | Not got any view | Noted |
| 91 | Think people who are working and single and have been on the list should be offered housing just the same as anyone else. Some people have been on the list for years but because they don't have kids are not offered housing because there not homeless priority they are in private housing costing a fortune of there wages. | Noted |
| 92 | I am not sure the date is what is of most importance, as there is different types of homelessness. | Noted |
| 93 | N/A | Noted |
| 94 | Depends on homeless reason. Could be self made saying don't get on with parents or family. First come, first served. | Noted |
| 95 | Everyone's circumstances differ. | Noted |
| 96 | This make it a fairer system, many years ago when we applied you yoyo'd up and down the list because of priorities its not always easy though as there will always be exceptional circumstances. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 97 | Through no fault of his own my son is homeless as his partner married someone else how could he go back to that house that he had for 20 years and now having to stay with me homeless. | Noted |
| 98 | People who are disabled either mentally or physically should receive more points to reflect this and maybe have a letter added before or after their points to reflect the severity of the disability. | Noted |
| 99 | Yes, because it is not fair someone who is homeless goes in front of someone who is actually on the transfer list or housing waiting list. | Noted |
| 100 | Don't understand question. | Noted |
| 101 | It is good not to wait so long - if you're homeless its horrible. | Noted |
| 102 | I agree unless there is a medical condition to be considered | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |

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| 103 | Some cases may be more severe than others | Noted |
| 104 | Families should have priority, especially where there are young children. | Noted |
| 105 | Some circumstances make people more in need than others i.e. parents with small children or babies. | Noted |
| 106 | Should go by circumstance | noted |
| 107 | unsure | noted |
| 108 | Depends on circumstances. | Noted |
| 109 | If someone has no where to go then they must be a priority over someone who already has a home. | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless' |
| 110 | People with mental issues and medical needs should be given consideration. | Health needs are covered in the Allocations Policy |
| 111 | Don't think they should be awarded the same points. | Noted |
| 112 | People that come into homelessness before others shouldn't be rehoused first. I think it should be either by situations who is in need to be rehoused first. | Noted |
| 113 | I agree unless the homeless person is living on the streets. I think too many young people say they are homeless just to get out of their parents houses while others wait years. | Applicants will be offered emergency accommodation if they are 'roofless' |
| 114 | Having once been homeless myself I would like houses allocated to British homeless people first not foreign immigrants | All applicants that are entitled to access 'public funds' will be accepted on to the housing register |
| 115 | I have been in homeless for 2 and a half years we have been put far away from schools hospital the support we need. Family's are getting housed before me and my children yet 2 of the children have health needs. I got signed off college by the doctor it is that bad . The council should put all the houses they get online and you should have to bid for the house and then it should be giving to the person/family who have been in homeless the longest. People are going in front of me for what reason I do not know. But the way things are it does not work. People think the council choose who they give houses to. | The Council recognise that there is an issue with some applicants being housed before others who have been waiting for longer. The proposed change will be fairer to everyone by housing applicants in order of acceptance. |
| 116 | People who are homeless but have a job, have health problems or people who have young kids should be giving priority over all else. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |

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| 117 | Temporary accommodation could be offered quicker to some but permanent housing should be by date of acceptance. | Emergency & temporary accommodation will be offered when required. |
| 118 | Does the old system work? Surely there are people who are in more urgent need and that is why the other system was in place in the first place why change it? | The Council recognise that there is an issue with some applicants being housed before others who have been waiting for longer. The proposed change will be fairer to everyone by housing applicants in order of acceptance. |
| 119 | But priority must be given to families in dire need | Noted |
| 120 | You should be next I line the longer you wait having newer applications get a house faster than those who wait years is unfair. | Noted |
| 121 | Depends on the applicants circumstances | Noted |
| 122 | Some peoples needs are greater than others for example single person/people with kids. | It is felt that all applicants accepted for rehousing are homeless or threatened by homelessness and date order is the fairest way to allocate our housing stock |
| 123 | Applicants with children should be given priority. | Noted |
| 124 | People go homeless for sake of moving out mum's house, as I have know people that have done this. | Each application is verified during the assessment period before being accepted for rehousing. |
| 125 | Homeless cases should be dependant on cases. I think Scottish people should be prioritised before other nationalities. | All applicants that are entitled to access 'public funds' will be accepted on to the housing register |
| 126 | I suppose it depends on their circumstances aswell but I do not agree with young people that decide to become pregnant just to receive a house. Also I believe that if the council has not pushed people to buy their council house they would not be in this position at present, so why does people that have been in a council house for a while have to take that problem on now. | Noted |
| 127 | I think anyone with children or a disability should receive priority for housing | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 128 | No one should have to be homeless apart from people who sell there houses and the council give them a council house. | There are many reasons why a homeowner sells their property - a change In their circumstances may mean that it becomes unaffordable. |
| 129 | No one should be homeless | Noted |

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| 130 | I was born and bred in Musselburgh. Was on waiting list for 10 years without getting house we all had to stay with relatives we gave up and were rehoused away from support of family and friends this is all wrong as people who were having babies and others who could not get help from others got houses, we just kept getting further down list. The list should be everyone gets house who are top of list by date not by points why should Musselburgh people move out of their town. | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 131 | Offering housing by date order seems fair in most circumstances. However, could special arrangements still be made for someone in unusually extreme conditions of homelessness? | All applicants will be offered emergency accommodation to meet their specific needs if required. It is felt that allocating by acceptance date is fair. |
| 132 | Some circumstances might require a more flexible approach | noted |
| 133 | Some people should be housed as a priority e.g. mothers/parents with young children. | Noted |
| 134 | First on list should be considered first for house | Noted |
| 135 | Army Veterans and British homeless people should be given priority housing regardless of points system. | The Allocations Policy recognises the service given by members of the Armed Forces and priority is given accordingly |
| 136 | it is very demoralising for someone in this situation finding that they are dropping down the list whilst seeing others who they perceive as not have as much or greater need. | Noted |
| 137 | Not in date order but level of need. | Noted |
| 138 | Only British residents/UK born | All applicants that are entitled to access 'public funds' will be accepted on to the housing register |
| 139 | There are some people who are homeless because of their own actions (drug users) more scrutiny has to be done on an individual basis to allocate homes. | Noted |
| 140 | I have been on waiting list for 8 years but have never been offered housing and have been resident in East Lothian for 46 years, yet people new to the area (and country) get offered housing much quicker. | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 141 | More points for older people | The Council have housing specifically for older people i.e. sheltered and amenity housing. |

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| 142 | Every individual case should be accepted given their circumstances surrounding the application | Each application is verified during the assessment period before being accepted for rehousing. |
| 143 | I think housing should be offered by circumstances. There are a lot of single Mothers having to house in private let with more to pay | Each application is verified during the assessment period before being accepted for rehousing. |
| 144 | Homeless families would be housed appropriately where families with kids of certain ages would have to wait for extra bedroom property (bit unfair) | Noted |
| 145 | This should be based on each individuals circumstances | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 146 | Homeless people should come first | Homeless legislation gives applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness reasonable preference in allocations. |
| 147 | I have been on council list for 32 years. My husband and I lived in Dunbar all our life. I have never been offered a council house. My name was lost. I had to go back to the start. Still been on housing list for 26 years. I bought an ex council house | The length of time spent on the housing list is not an indicator of housing need. Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 148 | Council need to get priorities right. People worse off | The Council have to comply with Scottish Government legislation when making allocations of housing. |
| 149 | Those with chronic illnesses or who are in need the most should be given first preference | Applicants are offered housing based on the level of their housing needs. |
| 150 | All homeless have a reason one way or another, but should be treated the same, hence it should be on date rather than urgency, which in turn hopefully cutting down on fraud | Noted |
| 151 | People that belong to the town should get priority. This is where a lot of disagreements with neighbours are | The Sustainable Communities Group within our Allocations Policy allows for the development of Local Letting Plans. |
| 152 | Only exceptional circumstances | Noted |
| 153 | Time factor. Some people rehoused multiple times. Health reasons need to have extra points | Noted |
| 154 | Depends on individual circumstances and health needs | Noted |
| 155 | Depends on reasons for homelessness. Genuine cases = exceptions, but not all applicants | Noted |

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| 156 | I strongly agree that housing should be offered by date as some people are being left on the list while others get housed before them when technically they are all homeless | Noted |
| 157 | People with children should rate a higher priority. | Noted |
| 158 | There may be circumstances than mean it is more urgent that a family is rehoused. Date of acceptance may not be the fairest measure of need | All applicants have access to emergency accommodation. Date of acceptance is the fairest way of allocating housing to those with higher housing needs. |
| 159 | Homeless people definitely need help first | Noted |
| 160 | someone who has been on housing list for years should get the first choice if house comes up to suit. | The length of time spent on the housing list is not an indicator of housing need. Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 161 | I also think that private renting should be given points due to high rents that usually lead to rent poverty, but it is the only way people can be housed to due need for any kind of housing if they do not take these high rents they would be homeless | The Allocations Policy recognises insecurity of some private tenancies by awarding priority points. |
| 162 | This should be priority as some people are being left for years not months for their permanent accommodation. | Noted |
| 163 | There are some situations that may merit faster housing | Noted |
| 164 | I agree if your homeless or sofa surfing everyone should get same points | Noted |
| 165 | Equality, yet urgency to meet demands due to circumstance | Noted |
| 166 | I lost all my points when I was forced to take private housing due to homelessness | Once you become securely housed, your application would be repointed to reflect your new circumstances. You may be awarded insecurity points depending on the type of tenancy you have. |
| 167 | Also "strongly" feel circumstances should be checked out more thoroughly as continue to hear about people being allocated housing when they are not living in overcrowded conditions, i.e. with parents when they are living in other properties | Noted |
| 168 | Same rule for all !! | noted |

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| 169 | You never helped us. We had to come home after staying out our country for 9 years and had to come come as our parents were in a bad way, health wise and still are and we had to get a private let,. | Noted |
| 170 | I disagree as some applicants was, are or will be homeless may have dependent children/family members | Noted |
| 171 | Not sure what this means, however, if the person/family are homeless then they should be a high priority and house asap. I think housing situations need addressed accordingly. Everyone is different and has different needs but the balance needs to be right. Someone who is homeless and some who has overcrowding could be less of a priority, however, it depends on their circumstances | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 172 | The last two tenants next door have been druggies. I've had 3 years of hell. People banging on doors and bedroom windows late at night | All anti-social behaviour should be reported to the ASB Team/local housing office. |
| 173 | Born and bred residents should have priority over homeless foreign families | All applicants that are entitled to access 'public funds' will be accepted on to the housing register |
| 174 | Depends on circumstances - if not paying rent etc. I see that different. Every case is different | Noted |
| 175 | Everyone is in the same boat, no favours | noted |
| 176 | Applicants reasons for homelessness still relevant and would need to be prioritised. Consider scaled points and date order | Homelessness legislation treats all applicants accepted for rehousing equally |
| 177 | It would depend on the individuals circumstances and the reasons for homelessness. | Noted |
| 178 | I want to move out my home and get my own flat. I can't afford it as no affordable flats to rent. | House prices and rental prices are high in the East Lothian area due to demand. The Council are now providing Mid Market Rental properties. Information is available from your local housing office. Tel: 01620 827827 |
| 179 | Been there after years still waiting, i.e. single male has private let (ignore) | Applicants are housed based on their needs - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 180 | There should be consideration of vulnerability, health, safety, financial position, age etc. | An assessment of housing need is carried out and priority is awarded accordingly. |

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| 181 | It's hard to get housing but we all deserve a place to call home because I think a home should be a place we are most safe. However, a home should always be looked after | Agreed. |
| 182 | Depending on the situation of the individual why are they homeless, genuine cases needs must be dealt with priority. | Applicants are housed based on Scottish Government legislation - due to the shortage of housing, those in most housing need will always be offered housing before those in less housing need. |
| 183 | It gives every homeless person on the list an equal opportunity | noted |
| 184 | I think the housing affordable once should be reserved for the people who live and have been brought up in East Lothian should get first preference. | All applicants must have a connection to East Lothian i.e. working here (or else be awarded refugee/asylum seeker status by the Government). Allocations are then made to applicants in the most housing need. |
| 185 | You should make more visits to each person to see where they are living and their circumstances then make decisions on how many points they should get | Noted |
| 186 | Priority should be made for homeless. Was in a similar situation, but family insisted I could live there until a private let became available. I suffer from Mental Health and I couldn't cope with accommodation that was unsuitable. | Noted |
| 187 | Homelessness is not a "one size fits all" situation. Some people's homeless situation can be a lot more urgent or desperate than others - i.e. immediate threat to being out on the street/children being involved. | All applicants have access to emergency accommodation. Date of acceptance is the fairest way of allocating housing to those with higher housing needs. |
| 188 | New applicants must wait in line just as everybody else has done - we should never encourage queue jumping. | Noted |
| 189 | I believe circumstances need to be taken into account. Also the reasons that the person is homeless and without discriminating people born in East Lothian should be allocated first. | All applicants must have a connection to East Lothian i.e. working here (or else be awarded refugee/asylum seeker status by the Government). Allocations are then made to applicants in the most housing need. |
| 190 | I believe that applicants with children should receive extra points on application, this could be balanced with the addition of points for each year an application remains on the housing list. | An assessment of housing need is carried out and priority is awarded accordingly. |
| 191 | I've been homeless for a year and a half and I have saw people come and go | All applicants have access to emergency accommodation. Date of acceptance is the fairest way of allocating housing to those with higher housing needs. |

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| 192 | <p>I am currently in homeless supported accommodation in Musselburgh. I have been waiting almost 2 years to be rehoused with the current system I have been overlooked for housing due to the reason I was made homeless (relationship breakdown) and I have seen many young people come and go as their circumstances are different to mine however once you are homeless it should be by date as when you are homeless you are homeless and the reasons behind it shouldn't matter</p> | <p>Noted</p> |
| 193 | <p>It would be soul destroying enough to be homeless without having people leapfrog you in the queue. But British born people should also get houses first to discourage people from coming here and jumping the queue.</p> | <p>All applicants must have a connection to East Lothian i.e. working here (or else be awarded refugee/asylum seeker status by the Government). Allocations are then made to applicants in the most housing need.</p> |
| 194 | <p>Getting the same points as other homeless people is a fair basis and should never differ each person may have different circumstances but they can get points due to those circumstances due to health or having a family so have a high priority.</p> | <p>Noted</p> |

Q4. HOME OWNERSHIP

Currently we are unable to take home ownership into consideration. Changes to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 now allow us to take home ownership into account when assessing an applicant's priority for social housing. This can be the ownership or value of property that is owned by the applicant or a member of their household or someone who intends to live with them.

We can also consider land ownership, as well as anything built on land and property that is currently owned or that has been previously owned in

| | Comment | Feedback |
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| 1 | Applicants should have exhausted all other means before applying for social housing. Majority of those applying for housing don't have the luxury of savings or property that they just don't want to use. | Depending on circumstances, home owners can often have more housing options than someone living care of or in private rented accommodation. |
| 2 | Unsure about question one as depends on type of accommodation ie someone newly disabled may no longer be able to live in their 3rd floor flat if they own. | If the property was not adaptable to meet their needs, it would not be considered suitable and other housing options could be considered. |
| 3 | If someone owns a home shouldn't get an other house because they aren't actually homeless. | Noted |
| 4 | Someone who has money can look elsewhere instead of housing them. | Noted |
| 5 | Homeowners/previous owners should not be on the list at all. | Depending on circumstances, home owners can often have more housing options than someone living care of or in private rented accommodation. |
| 6 | Social housing is their to help the genuinely struggling | Noted |
| 7 | No one should be allowed to sell their house and expect a council house or have a property abroad. Council houses were meant for people who could not afford to buy. Young people need help to start. If you have money buy. | Proceeds from the sale of property will be taken into consideration during the assessment of need for rehousing. |
| 8 | Do not think home owners should be eligible to apply for housing. | Homeowners will be assessed and their applications will be deferred until their circumstances change. |
| 9 | Certain circumstances | Noted |
| 10 | If they already have a house no need for a council one. | Noted |
| 11 | Social housing should always cater for people in the community who have no private financial means. | Noted |
| 12 | Young families who have extra needs to consider should be given extra points and priority | Depending on circumstances, home owners can often have more housing options than someone living care of or in private rented accommodation. |
| 13 | Caravans should not be taken into consideration. | Mobile Homes/Chalets/lodges can be owned by the applicant. |
| 14 | Depends on the circumstances i.e. separation and needing to sell house and not having money to buy another. | Proceeds from the sale of property will be taken into consideration during the assessment of need for rehousing. This may allow the applicant to access the private rented sector. |
| 15 | If you own property and you sell up you should not be given any priority. The people should be buying something else. | Proceeds from the sale of property will be taken into consideration during the assessment of need for rehousing. |
| 16 | I'm horrified that the above weren't considered before. Now I know why some Europeans own farms in their countries and get social housing here. | Noted |

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| 17 | If somebody has a property no matter where it is they are not homeless as they have a property where other homeless people have absolutely nothing. | Noted |
| 18 | Home owners that through no fault of their own have to leave/vacate property/house/home (divorce/unable to pay more) should take priority over somebody looking to make a fast buck! | Depending on circumstances, home owners can often have more housing options than someone living care of or in private rented accommodation. |
| 19 | Everyone has different opinion on whats right and wrong. I think circumstances change all the time therefore people have the right to social housing. | Noted |
| 20 | Social housing is for people who are unable to afford their own home. For someone to own a house and have council one when so many go without is ridiculous. | Noted |
| 21 | Unsure as this may be elderly/disabled who need adapted housing. | If the property was not adaptable to meet their needs, it would not be considered suitable and other housing options could be considered. |
| 22 | Circumstances change so they may own a property but waiting on a sale due to them losing job or divorce | Someone who is assessed as being homeless or threatened with homelessness will not have their property taken in to consideration. |
| 23 | I can see it looks unfair if someone has a house and are offered housing over those who don't. But I don't think it's fair to pick on property over any other assets people have. People have earned the money and chosen to spend it on a house - why is that particular pile of money taken into account over any other money or income they may have? I do think assets should be taken into account altogether, as it doesn't make sense to house people that could well afford to house themselves, but not property on its own. Buying and selling houses is expensive. Sometimes people may have hit a temporary financial crisis which means they can't afford to live in their house. To me it would make sense to have a temporary tenancy for 3 years say, to let them recover, and hopefully be able to move back in. This would help them out and also not get them stuck in social housing as they might be if they say get re-possessed. Also it might be say a small flat they bought when they were single and is now too small if they have a family. Or it may be crucifying them financially. I don't think they should be penalised for trying to sort their own housing over other things they might have bought. I don't think people escaping domestic violence should be disregarded because they | Proceeds from sale of property will be taken into consideration. As part of our Housing Options approach, an assessment of available options will take place, however, we cannot, by law, take income into account when allocating social housing. |
| 24 | If they own property (and they rent that property out) they should be an exclusion zone/area that they cannot apply for a council house within a 20/30 mile radius of the house they own. If that is the case can they use their second home as a first home. Properties abroad, if they own that property 100% mortgage free... why not sell that house and proceeds go to buying a house in the UK. | If a property is owned and rented we may offer a short tenancy only whilst the applicant waits for their property to become available. |
| 25 | A recent sale must surely be evaluated on the amount of capital that has been accrued through this. If the applicant has sufficient to enter the buying market then this enables them to procure a house on their own. Means testing, regarding their outlay must be taken into consideration i.e. looking after a partner in a home. | Proceeds of sale will be taken into consideration during any assessment process. The Council's housing application form will ask applicants to provide this information. |

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| 26 | People who own property or have sold property should not be entitled unless for additional needs (elderly/disabled) | All home owners are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptations |
| 27 | I use to own a home, I would have gladly signed any paper to transfer ownership to the council. I had to sell and I had to leave due to emotional abuse. | Should an applicant be at risk of domestic abuse which makes their current home unsafe - they should approach the Council's Housing Options Team. Home ownership would not be considered in these circumstances. |
| 28 | For years I have been against people selling their home and being allocated another council house when they can afford to buy. I feel it has become more common for family members to encourage their parents to sell up and apply for a small house or sheltered housing to safeguard their money being taken into account if they perhaps have to go into care thereby the family losing "their inheritance" | Proceeds of sale will be taken into consideration during any assessment process. The Council's housing application form will ask applicants to provide this information. |
| 29 | If person concerned is elderly and needs care at home circumstances can be different in certain cases. | All home owners are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptations |
| 30 | Why should someone that sells there house for thousands of pounds get a house, they should be made to buy there self another one. | Noted. Applicants will have to provide information on the proceeds of sale. |
| 31 | Because someone has a property it doesn't mean they can survive in that property due to financial poverty and owing the money from that property to pay mounting debt so they would not be left with enough to purchase another house. | Applicants whose home is at risk due to financial issues will be assessed to determine the cause of their circumstances. |
| 32 | It would be dependent on the health and need of the party concerned i.e. necessity of level residence. | All home owners are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptations where possible |
| 33 | People who are older & need to sell their homes due to circumstances i.e. they don't have funds to put stair lift or wetroom into their home. Some OT's decide they can manage stairs and baths when they struggle every day of life is very wrong. As such they get no urgent housing points for suitable social housing. | There are grants available for adaptations such as stair lifts and wetrooms. |
| 34 | Those with no money or property should be prioritised those with other resources have options available. | All applications are assessed and prioritised according to their housing needs |
| 35 | If you have a home owned stop chancing your arm! | Noted |
| 36 | Someone with a bought house may become disabled and their house may become unfit for their needs. Income from selling bought property or not, everyone should be entitled to the same opportunity for housing. | Due to the shortage of social housing, we offer our houses to those in most housing need. |
| 37 | People have different reasons maybe personal or medical for selling their property. People who have made money from the sale of their property have to pay full rent. | East Lothian Council rent levels are one of the lowest in Scotland. Homeowners who have the proceeds from the sale of their home have more housing options than others to access the private rented sector |
| 38 | I think it is all wrong that you can buy a council house then sell it and be put into another with they money they have made. | Noted |

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| 39 | In cases of domestic abuse where a property is jointly owned or one person continues to reside in property and other is unsafe would be detrimental to health safety & wellbeing. I would suggest a case by case discussion would be best consideration. | Where there is a risk of domestic abuse, homeownership would not be considered. Anyone affected by domestic abuse should contact Womens Aid or the Council's Housing Options Team |
| 40 | If you own a property you technically are not homeless. This is why there is a housing crisis. | Noted |
| 41 | Is there any point in comments. Council will be driven by budgets. | Finance is not the driver for allocations of social housing. Each social landlord must follow the legislation as laid down by the Scottish Government. |
| 42 | Property may have outstanding mortgage or owner may have debts or change in personal circumstances may make it difficult or impossible to remain in or continue to 'own' property. | Noted - the reason for sale would form part of any assessment carried out into housing need. |
| 43 | However it would depend on how much was received from the sale. If it is not enough to buy a decent house or they are unable to get a mortgage, they should be viewed by the same criteria. | Noted - the reason for sale would form part of any assessment carried out into housing need. |
| 44 | If they own a house they won't be homeless and don't need social housing | Home owners who have no housing need will not be given a priority for housing |
| 45 | Person may have debts to be paid. Therefore not much money may be left over. | Noted - the reason for sale would form part of any assessment carried out into housing need. |
| 46 | Question 1 Must depend on circumstances ie; If application is due to illness/disability then the answer should be no. | Noted |
| 47 | Too many people sell their house then are given council house. | Noted |
| 48 | Homeless mean no home | Noted |
| 49 | Peoples needs & requirements change for various reasons & nobody should be penalised. | Each applicant will be assessed according to their housing needs |
| 50 | Too many bought their council house at high discount then in later years sold on and received housing from council premises. | Noted |
| 51 | We would not be in this housing state if you hadn't sold them in the first place instead of housing people with loads of money. I would have made them buy an on the level house. | The Right to Buy was a government initiative that saw tenants able to purchase their homes at a discount. |
| 52 | No priority if they sell a house as they have made themselves homeless | Noted - the reason for sale would form part of any assessment carried out into housing need. |
| 53 | The property owned may not be habitable, is there room to assess need if property owned? If 2nd property is owned should be sold to help them move to somewhere more suitable . | The property should be habitable - if not the applicant may be offered a short tenancy until repairs can be carried out. |
| 54 | Not all ownership is owned by tenants but by bank or mortgage co. who will repo and owner left with nothing | The housing circumstances of each applicant will be taken into consideration. |
| 55 | If they own a house then they do not need social housing! | Noted |

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| 56 | I wish to notify you that I am disabled and was told by someone in Haddington Council Office that I wouldn't be allowed housing as the house I stay in with my partner belongs to him and can be adapted to suit disability, can you explain to me why a person I know has been allocated Sheltered Housing and owns their property, claims to be disabled and can go to clubs and dance all night which I cannot also at gala bingo Meadowbank and plays bingo slots all night, I was told if you own property you do not receive council property, I think the system is absolutely rubbish. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. |
| 57 | If you have a property you do not need one from ELC | Noted |
| 58 | If they or their partner owns a home and plans to move into a social housing property should not be allowed. As for those selling a property to move into social housing it should not be allowed because they have monies from selling the property can afford to pay for a private rented property. | All applicants (not just the main/joint applicants) included on a housing application will be asked whether they own/have owned property. |
| 59 | I think people who sell their house are not expected to get a council house they should buy another one with the money of the house sold. | Noted |
| 60 | There may be medical or mobility needs to consider which should also be assessed. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. |
| 61 | If people own or have recently sold and have money NO need for social housing as can buy or already have home - only if cant afford to buy bigger home for growing family. | Noted |
| 62 | Unless sheltered housing is needed people that are fit to live in houses should not get sheltered housing. | Noted |
| 63 | I know of several people who owned their own property who were then given a council house. This is totally unfair on people like me who cant afford to buy and it makes waiting time even longer. | Noted |
| 64 | I know of 2 separate cases where tenants were in a 'bought' property then awarded social housing!!! Sold their property and moved into council house with their rewards!!! Not one that I agree with. | The Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 has given social landlords the power to take home ownership into consideration - East Lothian Council will use this discretionary power going forward. |
| 65 | People have their only house sold or not are not in great need I believe. | Noted |
| 66 | Depends on circumstances | Noted |
| 67 | Unless they had to sell because of a reason beyond their control. | Noted |
| 68 | If an applicant is disabled or has a terminal illness and a person wishes to live with them to care for them then their property should not be considered a drawback but when the applicant dies then the carer must give up the tenancy and return to their own property. | If someone gives up their main residence to care for a friend/relative - they may be entitled to succeed to the tenancy. This depends on how long they have provided the care and whether they have informed the Council. |
| 69 | A home abroad should not be counted because there may not be the means to travel. | Noted |

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| 70 | If people have worked all their life I think they don't need to buy a council house, But if they do well then they shouldn't get another council house | Noted |
| 71 | 1 - Not if there is an identified urgent need which cannot be satisfied by remaining or returning to their owned home. 2 - No however if they can prove they intend to sell, give up rights to an owned property then it may be open to discretion. 3 - Yes - but there should be a minimum level of savings which should not be taken into account e.g. only if savings exceed £16k | Noted |
| 72 | Why if they have assets sell and give the council 3 year payment to the application | Noted |
| 73 | If you own a home you have the means and money to get another house, most council tenant could only dream of getting on the property ladder. | Noted |
| 74 | They are not homeless if they have a property elsewhere. | Noted |
| 75 | Home Owner who have bought council houses should not be offered a second council house. | Noted |
| 76 | Too many people have abused this, selling their home from a hefty profit then moving to a council home. | Noted |
| 77 | There are exceptional circumstances i.e. present owned property no longer suitable due to ill health age etc. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptations are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. |
| 78 | Someone might own house - not able afford maintain it - to sell is to become homeless | noted |
| 79 | You would need to look into circumstance | Each applicant will be assessed according to their housing needs |
| 80 | Depends on financial situation Not everyone has money to afford private rent whatever the situation is | Each applicant will be assessed according to their housing needs |
| 81 | Don't think subletting or assignation is going to lesson the problem of house owners still in council houses. | Noted |
| 82 | Difficult area as circumstances vary and reasons also i.e. a/a property abroad!! no good when you work here. | Noted |
| 83 | We has mortgage to rent scheme, save us being homeless and we were very grateful. However we did not receive even £1 and all the profit made went to ELC for upgrades etc??? Profit being the value of our house had went up by and the lower mortgage amount we had to pay off. And we could not buy our house back. | Noted |
| 84 | People that own a house shouldn't get priority to social housing as they can afford to pay a house for themselves. | Noted |
| 85 | If the applicant 'has means in property' no property should be given - they are not desperate (just chancing their luck!) | Noted |

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| 86 | Its difficult to answer these questions when there could be so many variables that change from applicant to applicant. I do not think someone who owns a property should be given homeless priority, but the circumstances may show different. Got to be taken case by case. | Noted - Each case will be looked at on a case by case basis. |
| 87 | Q3. Scottish government has in place a scheme to support buyers like LIFT for e.g. those people have to be asked for proof that they explore more than 1 option before applying for council home. Q1. Unsure - more information is needed for the process of priority / what will be taken into consideration - size of the owned property, income. | Noted |
| 88 | If someone owns property they should not be allowed to apply for council housing even if they have sold property, more people who cant afford property due to low wages they need the housing. | Noted |
| 89 | I own my house in Dunfermline but cannot afford to buy a house in East Lothian as they are more expensive. I am only looking for 1/2 bedroom | Property owned elsewhere will be taken in to consideration during the application process. |
| 90 | Q1 - lesser priority but not a priority Q2 - Yes, but not based on the previous answer (less priority) If someone has property it must be considered that they could potentially buy a property, so why are they trying to rent | Noted |
| 91 | There may be no equity in selling property due to divorce and ill health equal priority should be given. | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 92 | Who should property owner get a house when there is so many people homeless why? | Noted |
| 93 | people who own property may be struggling due to personal circumstances, divorce, separation etc and may find selling only option to make ends meat then become single parent etc. | Noted |
| 94 | As houses are far and few between I'm stuck living somewhere that I don't like but I have no choice, they do and have plenty of money | Noted |
| 95 | Unless under financial hardship people who own or sell their home should not be entitled to social housing | Noted |
| 96 | You need to look into their circumstances. | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 97 | I think that everyone's circumstances should be evaluated separately for example if someone own a home with someone but the relationship breaks the person to leave | Noted |
| 98 | I don't think they should get a council house if they sell their houses. It is not fait for people waiting for houses who has been on the list for years | The money from sale of a property by the owner or someone who is to be rehoused with the applicant will be considered. |
| 99 | For Q2 it would in my opinion depend on individual circumstances. | Noted |

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| 100 | Someone who has money from sale of house could need sheltered or amenity housing therefore they should be considered for this. Home owners do not necessary have savings to move to a smaller home and are therefore more or less unable to put their house up for sale. Regards to pensioners they have to make themselves homeless if they sell their home first. I am 82 and presently in this situation. | The proceeds from the sale of a house will be taken in to consideration and all available housing options should be explored. |
| 101 | It should all be taken into account because if they own a property then they have other means of where to stay and possible if those places to stay are not available to live in at that moment then they should be considered for a place to stay via the council and have access to the correct support. | Noted |
| 102 | If property is in an area they are looking for social housing then yes it should be considered | All owned property will be taken into consideration. |
| 103 | All applicants should be treated individually, as every persons, needs, care, issues, problems etc are unique and require a fair investigation/decision. | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 104 | Sold property - dependent of circumstances Social housing was developed to help those who are in need because they are homeless or unable to buy property. Some people own property they have means to do so | Noted |
| 105 | Applicant that own or have the means through sale of owned property should not ever be entitled for social housing. Unless financial capital from the sale or bank balance proves the purchase of another property by the applicant is not possible. | Noted |
| 106 | Individual circumstances need to be considered, i.e. if someone owns a property that is unsuitable or dangerous, any income from a sale would quite quickly be given to a landlord and council tax if the sale brought in more than £16000 | Noted |
| 107 | Council housing should be available to everyone who wants it. Ownership is not the be all and end all. A roof over your head at a fair price should be an option open to all. It works on the continent - why not here? | Due to the shortage of social housing, we offer our houses to those in most housing need. |
| 108 | All circumstances can be different depending on individual circumstances, i.e. domestic abuse or medical needs | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |
| 109 | What about people who bought their house and council who are making affordable for council tenants ask your people. | Noted |
| 110 | If they have property they should not be looking for social housing. | Noted |
| 111 | I put unsure because you may not the reason or the circumstances or situation the people are in. | Noted |
| 112 | Should be means tested? | Income cannot be a consideration when assessing priority for social housing |
| 113 | N/A | |

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| 114 | Circumstances like losing job, health or can no longer afford mortgage payments. Personally, I don't think Housing Officers listen to people, they can be very judgemental. | Noted |
| 115 | Applicants who require alternative housing who currently own their home should have to sell to purchase suitable housing. Also if someone buys a property that is not suitable for their needs should not be given social housing. I am aware of a council tenant who had adaptations to their property in the past who then bought their council house but was allocated another council house and again adaptations were made and were permitted to purchase 2nd council property. This should not have been permitted. | Noted. The Right to Buy has been abolished and no council tenant can now buy their council house. |
| 116 | Absolutely agree. I would prefer land currently being used to build 4/5 bedroom homes should be stopped and council homes built. I've been on housing list since I was 16 (20 years), single and still not closer to getting a council property. I think the whole system is a joke to be honest | Due to the shortage of social housing, we can only offer our houses to those in most housing need. |
| 117 | Except on medical grounds | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptations are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |
| 118 | When there is such a shortage of social housing people with priorities should have a lesser priority. | Noted |
| 119 | If the property owner is facing repossession then they should be considered for social housing | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 120 | Q1 - Dependant on health situation! | Noted |
| 121 | Depends on financial needs. Everyone should be treated equally. I have known people with property that are struggling with mortgages | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 122 | Dependent on individual circumstances which would need to be taken into account | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 123 | have ticked yes but I suppose it would depend on circumstances - e.g. if someone was unable to manage to climb stairs or the person was in need of care for someone else to move in. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptations are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |
| 124 | If applicants have become disabled or are old more information about their needs and circumstances need to be considered before a definite decision is made. | Noted |
| 125 | Applicants who own property may be struggling to pay mortgage, so should still be given same priority to housing. It depends on circumstances. | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 126 | Shouldn't be means tested. Unfair to treat home owners differently apart from genuine homeless applicants. We have all heard about applicants saying they were asked to leave a house, we all know this is not true in some cases. | Home owners who have no housing need will not be given a priority for housing |
| 127 | Anyone owning property should not be considered for social housing. | Noted |

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| 128 | I think everyone would have to be judged depending on value of the property sold and how much capital the applicant has. | Noted |
| 129 | Someone in their own house could become frail and be a danger in their home | Noted |
| 130 | If people have the money to buy a house to rent I think it is highly unfair that they should get onto the Housing List. It is people who need housing from the council that should be on the housing waiting list | Noted |
| 131 | The person who sells their property will get no rebates and have to pay fully for everything inc. repairs. Which can only benefit the council | Home owners who have no housing need will not be given a priority for housing |
| 132 | I am an 80 year old widow who had had to sell house to pay off daughter debts and applied for a council house to be informed I have no points and would never be offered a council house. Debts were due to her husband leaving her and debts behind. Where is the justice here? | The decision to sell property for whatever reason means that applicants must have made arrangements for their future accommodation . Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis. |
| 133 | Maybe had to sell or lose house altogether. Money made from sale would pay off mortgage and debt if any | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 134 | Applicants who own their own property should be considered if a medical problem restricts them from living in their property, i.e. mot being able to go up or down stairs etc. Also if the property does not meet living standards, i.e. building and structural problems. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |
| 135 | Someone selling a property and has money need to have individual case looked at. Perhaps its a divorce and not all the money goes to one person. It could also be split between siblings or go towards debt. It shouldn't be assumed the money can go directly to buying another property. | Noted |
| 136 | It all depends on how much they made from the sale of the house. | Noted |
| 137 | I think it should be on personal and disabilities on each applicant as we are all different | Noted |
| 138 | Circumstances again | Noted |
| 139 | It is wrong to give someone who has sold a house a council house. | Noted |
| 140 | I have been on housing list for 20 years now and have zero points. I struggle each month to pay a mortgage so why should I be less entitled to be offered a council house than anyone else. | Homeowners are considered to have more housing options than many applicants. Some applicants may not be able to afford private rents/access the housing market at all - even with the help of benefits. |
| 141 | I don't have a lot of knowledge on this kind of subject. | Noted |
| 142 | If they own a property or sell a house they shouldn't be re housed. A lot of people live together yet have income from another property and get priority over others. | Noted |
| 143 | Some people who own their own property may find as they get elderly the property becomes unsuitable and may not have enough funds to buy a new suitable property. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |

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| 144 | System open to abuse. People who have own property can sell up gain considerable financial reward from sale then get council housing at a favourable rent to previous mortgage payments. | The proceeds from the sale of a house will be taken in to consideration and all available housing options should be explored. |
| 145 | If you have money or own a property then you can live there . Rent a house buy a house no one who owns property that you can live in and that is safe dose not need help from the council. | Noted |
| 146 | This is a very important area and people who own or have sold their properties should use their money to buy/rent. | Noted |
| 147 | People who own property or have the proceeds of selling property should not be entitled to social or council housing. | Noted |
| 148 | Depends on individual circumstances. | Noted |
| 149 | House owners should not supposed to access council house at all. Council house should be for low income, less privileged and homelessness | Noted |
| 150 | People who don't own property definitely have a greater need that those who do | Noted |
| 151 | People are struggling with mortgages but have no option to take one on as there are no council houses available. They shouldn't be penalised because they have taken a mortgage on. | Homeowners are considered to have more housing options than many applicants. Some applicants may not be able to afford private rents/access the housing market at all - even with the help of benefits. |
| 152 | Depends on the reason for a council house due to ill health. | Noted |
| 153 | Q1: Depends on mobility issues and suitability of property one owns. | Noted |
| 154 | I think that applicants who own there own property should not be priority for housing unless their circumstances has changed! etc lost their job, cant get a job or separated with children. | Noted |
| 155 | I honestly think council homes are for people who really need a home I don't have access to 1 abroad. | Noted |
| 156 | I do not have an opinion on this matter as I would need more info | Noted |
| 157 | Should not be rehoused after selling their house | The proceeds from the sale of a house will be taken in to consideration and all available housing options should be explored. |
| 158 | Social Housing should be for people who do not own their own property. | Noted |
| 159 | All circumstances of a person health should be taken into account, so that the system is fair to all. | Noted |
| 160 | We are all equal in gods eyes. | Noted |
| 161 | If property owned should not be housed. I think they could sell and move they have capital, when family split up there is always someone who will be needed to get housed if they get a share of house then they could get a share/council if at all possible. | Noted |
| 162 | Depending on ownership are they being made homeless and their current property being repossessed by building society or bank and they will get nothing from property when sold. | Noted |

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| 163 | people have had to buy/get a mortgage because they were not offered council property. They pay more for their homes and don't get a discount to buy home like council tenants. | The Right to Buy was a government initiative that saw tenants able to purchase their homes at a discount - this has since been abolished. Housing can only be offered to those in most need. |
| 164 | Those with property should not qualify for social housing unless there are special circumstances. | Noted |
| 165 | People who buy their council house and sell for a large profit should not be allowed another council house | Noted |
| 166 | It depends this could penalise someone who due to relationship breakdown has to sell their houses and split the proceeds with their ex-partner. This money may be insufficient to buy another house. | The applicant would be asked to look at all housing options such as the private rented sector. |
| 167 | I do not own another house but if I did sell it for another house here. | Noted |
| 168 | Unless there is a medical need for example someone has a top floor flat but has an accident or illness & now uses a wheelchair, They could sell their top floor flat or rent it but not have enough money to be able to buy or rent a suitable property. These people should be given a priority. | If there property was unsuitable for adaptation, their application would be assessed for rehousing. |
| 169 | People who sell house should have no rights to council property (go private and rent till monies are low!) | Noted |
| 170 | If you have a property you are not homeless if you sell your property you have made yourself homeless | Noted |
| 171 | People who own property can live in it | Noted |
| 172 | The person living with someone. Maybe a carer or assistant to a disabled person. | Noted |
| 173 | I've come across this before, when someone sold their house and obtained a council house. | The proceeds from the sale of a house will be taken in to consideration and all available housing options should be explored. |
| 174 | People's needs change as they grow older. Consideration should be given to past history is good payers of community tax keeping their area, garden etc tidy. To many people don't look after property as they have everything paid for them by council services. | Noted |
| 175 | I put my name on the list for security as if I lost my job and home I know I done my waiting time on the list and wasn't list jumping | Offers of housing are made to those in most housing need and not based on someone's ability to wait on the housing list - waiting time is no longer a factor. |
| 176 | Should people who own property be applying for social housing in the first place? | Anyone aged 16 years or older is permitted to apply to the housing list. |
| 177 | Council/social housing should only be for those who are on a low income - not for those who are property owners. | Noted |
| 178 | Do not understand why people who own or sell property are even considered ! | Noted |
| 179 | Unsure due to what circumstances surround application | Noted |
| 180 | If people have other property - They are not really priority homeless - Why should they be given another home - Where the actual priority are waiting sometimes years!! | Noted |

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| 181 | Someone may sell property to pay debts for other family members or themselves | The decision to sell property for whatever reason means that applicants must have made arrangements for their future accommodation . Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis. |
| 182 | Examine circumstances of individuals | Noted |
| 183 | I know some people have to sell due to marriage breakdown or job loss etc. so through unfortunate circumstances they have to sell and apply and apply for social housing | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 184 | If they previously owned a house but sold or no longer can afford it, this should not mean they should jump the queue before anyone else. Everyone is on the list for one reason or another | Noted |
| 185 | Fairness is required | Noted |
| 186 | Don't think if someone owns their own house it should be down to overcrowding. Teenagers, boy/girl should have own room. | Noted |
| 187 | If an applicant already owns a house they should not be given priority, or housing. They should live in whatever house they own, and if it has been let out then Council could help those renting the house to get a council house. Or, those that own the house should be made to go private rental | Noted |
| 188 | Social housing should be for people who cannot afford to buy a house | Noted |
| 189 | People who own houses should not get council property. If their property is too large for them they should sell it and buy a smaller place | Noted |
| 190 | If you can afford to have property, you're just stopping someone who can't afford to buy from getting a Council house | Noted |
| 191 | If they can afford to buy land or property then they don't need social housing unless they go bankrupt | Noted |
| 192 | If you sell your property you should go on the bottom of the list like everyone else. Nobody should go before anyone that's been on the housing list longer | Offers of housing are made to those in most housing need and not based on someone's ability to wait on the housing list - waiting time is no longer a factor. |
| 193 | Council properties should be for us who work and don't have money/savings or own properties (liberty takers) | Noted |
| 194 | A lot of people have the means to house themselves when others are less fortunate which then puts a strain on the council to house everyone regardless of status | Noted |
| 195 | Someone that owns property shouldn't be allowed to make an application for council housing. | Noted |
| 196 | People who own or have funds to own a property should be given lesser priority. Disabled, homeless, overcrowded need to be in a community are all more urgent circumstances for social housing help. | Noted |

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| 197 | Applicant ticked both yes and unsure re the first 2 questions For the first two questions, it would depend on the circumstances - e.g. an elderly person needing suitable housing for medical reasons, or a family member moving in on a temporary basis for caring purposes. Otherwise, my answer would be yes | Noted |
| 198 | Owners looking for sheltered accommodation should be considered. | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |
| 199 | Homeless people definitely need help first | Noted |
| 200 | Nobody owning property in UK or abroad should be in council housing. They already have a "roof over their heads" and are 100% secure unless they have disabilities or mental health issues and i.e. require hospital treatment (need to live closer) | Noted |
| 201 | Circumstances can change e.g. inability to fund repairs, reduction in income and cost of living rising, ill health, mobility to go up and down stairs - old age!! | The decision to sell property for whatever reason means that applicants must have made arrangements for their future accommodation . Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis. |
| 202 | People buy a home as an investment not just a home. If their circumstances change (e.g. health), they can buy another property. It is well known those people have "cashed in" their home and obtained small bungalow housing from the local authority without trying to buy another house. This may be permissible under the law but needs tightening up as too many homeowners are of this dodge and are "over egging" any health problems they may have. Homeowners (not all) are well aware of the dodge | Noted |
| 203 | Sometimes it's impossible to see a light at the end of the tunnel. If you own a property that is worth less than the value to buy another (more suitable) property then you are stuck. Because NO one storey (or very few) are being built. NOT COST EFFECTIVE!! Therefore the seller's can start a price war which effectively shuts the door for most folks !!! | Noted |
| 204 | Absolutely no way should a home owner especially someone who rents our should take a council house unless fleeing domestic violence or abuse | Noted |
| 205 | Circumstances change all the time, people might own their homes but struggle to pay mortgage every month, therefore they need to be on housing lists for future problems with no money | The decision to sell property for whatever reason means that applicants must have made arrangements for their future accommodation . Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis. |
| 206 | If people have money they should rent privately 100% | Noted |
| 207 | People who own property should not be given council housing unless its a breakdown of relationship etc & they need to leave the bought property. | Noted |
| 208 | There can be circumstances where there is debt or unforeseen things that mean someone may need to sell their home. Each case needs to be looked at individually. | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |

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| 209 | A person who has sold a property may not have enough money to buy another property i.e. money may be to pay debt or shared with other siblings | Before selling a property, homeowners should look at all the housing options available to them and make provision for future housing i.e. private rented sector, low cost home ownership, mid market rent etc. |
| 210 | People who are on the waiting list should get more points than people with a house | Applicants in the most housing need will receive the greater priority for re-housing. |
| 211 | Equality over financial circumstance, home owners recently sold with money from sale can deposit rent for private let, others are not in the position to do so. | noted |
| 212 | They have property people who are homeless don't have that priority | noted |
| 213 | People owning own property may need social housing due to health, i.e. retirement, age, who may not have money to sell and buy appropriate accommodation | Before selling a property, homeowners should look at all the housing options available to them and make provision for future housing i.e. private rented sector, low cost home ownership, mid market rent etc. |
| 214 | Same rule for all | Noted |
| 215 | Unsure of some questions. I think it depends on some people's circumstances. Some are worse than others | Noted |
| 216 | Consideration should be given to the amount of money raised from the sale of a property, but should also take into account outstanding debts and age | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 217 | People who own their own house shouldn't need a council house. In my eyes, that's to make money. They rent their house out and live in a council house - it's not right | Noted |
| 218 | The "no" marking above - everyone's individual circumstances should be taken into account | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 219 | (1) Living with parents does not mean they have property either (3) that money from a sale of a house means they can pay rent and buy a holiday or second home abroad if required | Noted |
| 220 | Homeowners should not be eligible for social housing at all | Noted |
| 221 | People who own a property or have sold a property should not be allowed to apply to rent a council property. They should buy another house for their needs | Noted |
| 222 | If they sell a house they can rent or buy a new house | Noted |
| 223 | If they are providing essential social care for the applicant then yes, if not, probably no | Noted |
| 224 | Consideration to be given to availability if housing to purchase (by various methods) in the area and types and prices. Possibly persons may have to be prepared to move away as a distance from relatives. Greater requirement for reasonably priced properties or more private rentals at value for money charges | Noted |
| 225 | Again it depends on individuals cases and circumstances. | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 226 | They should be at the bottom or buy one. | Noted |

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| 227 | I have my own house for four years and I do not have one single point! I work all my days and get nothing in return. If you don't work you get new houses - not good. | Offers of housing are made to those in most housing need and not based on someone's ability to wait on the housing list - waiting time is no longer a factor. |
| 228 | Many people own homes abroad and live in council housing here for only a few months a year. No special treatment for them - low on list of priority | All tenants must occupy their council property as their main or principle home. The Council will take action to recover property that in not being tenanted. |
| 229 | Peoples lives change one that was once prosperous falls apart (not always their fault) | Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis |
| 230 | If an applicant owns a property that is up for sale and is not selling then they should be allowed to apply for social housing | All home owners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their home meets their needs e.g. adaptation are carried out where possible. There are grants available for adaptations to be carried out. Home ownership will not be considered where there are incidences of domestic abuse. |
| 231 | People who have bought ex-council housing, sold it for a profit and then re-applied for social housing should be at the back of the queue - sorry | noted |
| 232 | Anyone who has property and wishes to move should sell the property and buy their new property. Too many homes are going to people who have made huge profits therefore young people who cannot afford a house have very little chance of getting council houses | Noted |
| 233 | As an ex council tenant, I bought my council property to get on in life. We struggled with a two bedroom flat, sharing two daughter three year gap. We then converted the attic to gain more space. My two daughters have completed university are back staying with us, daughter age now 26, 23, four adults in a flat is not easy at times. I have been on council list since 1997, hoping I would have been successful for a Council House, not so far. | Offers of housing are made to those in most housing need. |
| 234 | Why should people profit from ex local authority housing then sell and decide to put their names back on the list | Noted |
| 235 | This is social housing | Noted |
| 236 | Someone who pays a mortgage ,ay lease their home if they lose their job or on a low income and unable to buy another property | Noted |
| 237 | Many people benefit from a share of a property sold but do not have enough funds to purchase home of their own. This can only apply to someone who has received total amount of property sale. | All housing options must be looked at based on the circumstances of the individual - other housing tenures are available i.e. mid market rent, low cost home ownership etc. |
| 238 | If people own or have properties in another country, it will come under the legislation of that country, therefore absolutely nothing to do with EL Council. | If they apply for social housing and to the Council's housing list - there property ownership will be considered. |
| 239 | I had to sell my house as husband left and had to go into rented accommodation 12 years ago and I am still there. I got and still get no points for that, so why should folk with property get points. | Noted |
| 240 | Someone who has sold property should buy a suitable house for themselves | Before selling a property, homeowners should look at all the housing options available to them and make provision for future housing i.e. private rented sector, low cost home ownership, mid market rent etc. |

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| 241 | I have an illness, my Mum and Dad would like to downsize as they are getting older but cannot as I need my medication storage and have nowhere to go. | Noted |
| 242 | Myself , for example, my husband and I own out own house but with having dementia, Sheltered Housing would be so much better | Noted - please request a visit to our Wellwynd Hub to look at SMART technologies that may be able to assist. |
| 243 | I am against people being given a council property when they have already bought and sold a previous council property | Noted |
| 244 | If someone can afford a property regardless of location do not need social housing and therefore should have no right to apply either as an individual or as a couple. | Noted |

Q5. APPLICATION SUSPENSIONS

East Lothian Council can now by law, suspend any new application for up to a maximum of three years to prevent them from receiving an offer of housing from the date they apply. There are several reasons when this can happen:-

- The applicant has acted in an antisocial manner
- The applicant has certain previous convictions
- The applicant has been previously evicted on certain grounds
- A previous tenancy was abandoned or neglected
- There were outstanding rent arrears relating to a previous tenancy
- The applicant made false statements in their housing application
- The applicant has refused more than two offers

Sufficient evidence to suspend must be provided and the applicant can appeal the landlord's decision to suspend them and they have the right to appeal to the Sherriff Court.

Do you think it is appropriate to suspend an applicant for a reasonable period for the above reasons.

| | Comments | Feedback |
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| 1 | Spent convictions should not effect someone trying to start a new life. Help & assistance should be given to those who have previously struggled with money management/issues with universal credit. | Only housing related offences will be considered that have taken place in the local area with impacts on neighbours/community. |
| 2 | Re rent - depends if genuine or just not paying or keeping money. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 3 | Not sure I am qualified to answer these questions as it is quite a broad sweeping statement. I do understand the need for this sanction but unsure how it can help and may cause more harm. | Noted |
| 4 | Previous Convictions - one depends on what they are. Some people deserve a second chance. Rent Arrears is a problem these days - some people are very poor. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 5 | Evictions - this needs to be assessed on circumstance. The tenant may have lost their job leading to hardship/eviction. Refusing offers - some areas may be unsuitable therefore a person should have the right to refuse after all it is the person who is affected, waiting longer for a house suitable for them. | Noted |
| 6 | Rent arrears could be not their fault. Refusing all depends on where they need to live. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |

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| 7 | Would have to take into consideration the reason for rent arrears. | Noted |
| 8 | Of course, no brainer. | Noted |
| 9 | My personal opinion - honest applicants have got less chance to get a council flat. We should should treat the council flat as our own, care for it and never neglect it. | Noted |
| 10 | Depending on the circumstances around the antisocial behaviour or rent arrears etc. It's not always black and white. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 11 | Depends upon 'rent arrears' habitual yes, on a one off due to circumstances could be excused - the question is too vague. Refusing two offers of housing?? I have been offered elsewhere unsuitable housing twice or the same building which also with a year. | After an offer is refused, applicants are advised to update their areas of choice if they are unsuitable. |
| 12 | There are different circumstances for people falling into rent arrears. | Noted |
| 13 | There are different circumstances for people falling into rent arrears. | Noted |
| 14 | Refusing two offers of housing - applicant maybe offered a house in an area that they have not applied for and need to be near family that live in another area. then this should not be looked at as a refusal. | Applicants will not be offered a property outwith their areas of choice. |
| 15 | I agree with means tested tenants people should not sell a house to move into a council house. People should be given a chance and not evicted for not paying rent some people are genuine and on pension credit. People don't have sufficient money! | The Council will work with tenants to develop a payment plan - eviction will always be an action of last resort. |
| 16 | People can and do change - they deserve a second chance. | Noted |
| 17 | Depending on the crime e.g. for drink driving conviction should not be taken into account, however, drug offences definitely should. | Only housing related offences will be considered that have taken place in the local area with impacts on neighbours/community. |
| 18 | Can anti-social behaviour include bullying by internet stalking of current tenants, encouraging others to harass tenants etc. | Investigations would be carried out. |
| 19 | Everybody falls into hard times at some point and should be given the chance to get there rent back on track before suspending any application. Refusing two offers should not suspend your application that rule could force you to have to accept a house not truly suitable where you would be unhappy. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |

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| 20 | Reason for antisocial behaviour should be clarified first, in some instances, this is because of other neighbours etc., Rent arrears could be from mess up in benefits, wrong cancellations for council tax support etc. | The Council's Safer Communities team would investigate reports of ASB. |
| 21 | Some questions need further consideration | Noted |
| 22 | The two unsure ticks - more information would be needed, depends on reasons | Noted |
| 23 | People may change and no longer anti-social. Same as evictions. I think rather than it be a general group it should be evaluated individually. I know someone in homelessness that got straight out of prison and allocated a house. He was a dangerous man yet hard working people are at the back of the queue. Not everyone can afford private rent even if they are working. | The Scottish Government tells all social housing landlords who must be a priority for housing. Someone leaving prison who is vulnerable and at risk of homelessness must be offered the opportunity to rehabilitate. |
| 24 | People with convictions have to live somewhere, it might help them not to re-offend. Previous evictions - could be a long time ago, and people do change (you hope) - depends what for and how long probably. Outstanding rent arrears might well just be poverty as life is expensive, or difficulty budgeting - I would say no to this as long as rent is paid directly from housing benefit or via direct debit. Unless it was a lifestyle choice e.g. they had a good wage and just didn't choose to pay. Refusing two offers of housing - could you not have choice based letting instead (like ELHA) so this doesn't arise? | Investigations would be carried out to determine cause/reason for ASB or rent arrears. Applicants should have payment plan in place to pay off arrears that can be tailored to suit them. |
| 25 | If spent convictions, depending on nature of conviction should be taken in to consideration. If custodial sentence has been served and if over one year old from release this should not exclude applicant. Also depends if rehabilitation has been sought, applied and served by applicant. If rent arrears are more than 3 x monthly rent, apply exclusion If 2 or more of the above is on application this should exclude the applicant for the 3 years. | Noted |
| 26 | What are the convictions? Reason for eviction? Reason for arrears? Need and ethnicity of applicant. Some areas may unfortunately not suit. What is a reasonable period? PS these processes could be overseen by chosen existing council tenants rather than law or council employees whether paid or unpaid. | The only convictions considered would be ones of an antisocial behaviour etc., carried out in the local area. Also considered would be the impact on neighbours and wider community. |
| 27 | Previous convictions - depends on what the convictions was for. | Noted |

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| 28 | Convictions - depends on what the conviction was for. | Noted |
| 29 | If someone is offered 2 houses but they refuse for personal reasons I think it would be unfair to suspend them. | There is a very high demand for housing and applicants are made offers in their areas of choice, suitable for their assessed health needs and family size. |
| 30 | I had one offer so far, which was unsuitable due to rooms number and safety. It was marked as refused - someones refusal goes to someone else, so I don't see why this should affect the applicants. | The time taken to send the offer, view the property and wait for refusal letter then reoffer and go through the process again adds up to rent loss for the |
| 31 | Previous convictions if serious. | Noted |
| 32 | The above questions are ridiculous, give tenancies to people in genuine need. | The Scottish Government tells all social housing landlords who must be a priority for housing. |
| 33 | Re refusing 2 offers of housing - again due to personal experience of my son's position he refused an offer of a 2 bed property as he has a son now 17 and a daughter 14 so the house wasn't big enough - don't consider offer was a reasonable one. | Applicants will two children who are resident with them full time can apply for 2 or 3 bedrooms - offers are then made depending on these choices. |
| 34 | Refusing a house for legitimate reasons shouldn't affect the applicant. | All reasonable refusals are not included ie. possible domestic violence may exclude a number of streets. |
| 35 | Depends on the circumstances of rent arrears. | Noted |
| 36 | Circumstances are different in many cases. Homes should be allocated, suitable for long term occupancy. Benefit of children staying in same schools throughout education. | Noted |
| 37 | Sex offenders should be suspended and excluded from applying. | The Scottish Government tells all social housing landlords who must be a priority for housing. Having a suitable secure home allows for monitoring and rehabilitation. |
| 38 | Referring to previous convictions it could be petty and they all get classed the same, people need a chance to prove themselves. | Noted - only those that possibly impact on neighbours/wider community will be considered. |
| 39 | Being a victim of bullying by neighbours (which resulting in me having to do an exchange) previous evictions should suspend but sometimes the council take others word if they are more than one person. I lived alone and never had anyone there when I was abused and threatened and the council believed them over me. They tried to get me an ASBO but I exchanged because I was told that was my only option or be evicted. | Noted |

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| 40 | Depending on the reasons why there can be things out of peoples control and no sex offenders should be housed near kids. | Noted |
| 41 | People have a right to a new start. Everyone needs a home and shouldn't be denied on historical failings. | Noted |
| 42 | Depends on individual circumstances. | Noted |
| 43 | We are all in rent arrears - well most of us. This is something that can be sorted out. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 44 | Treat every applicant/tenant as an individual. | Noted |
| 45 | Depends if the convictions are serious and a threat to neighbours. | Noted |
| 46 | Where evidence shows "change" and appropriate regular support is in place then most of above could improve 3 years seems so long. If a refusal to engage with support then I would agree. Rent arrears & false information - can be indications of literacy problems so don't like blanket rules. | Noted |
| 47 | Judge each application on its merits. The background to previous problems may no longer exist. Previous problems may have involved other parties so persons should not feel persecuted. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 48 | Rent arrears don't mean someone won't pay rent. They maybe have a period of financial difficulties or previous landlords were not professional. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 49 | I don't think it's fair to suspend anyone until there has been some kind of meeting. | Noted |
| 50 | Refusal may be for good reason e.g. ill health, therefore should not be taken into account. | Only refusals that are considered unreasonable are taken into account. |
| 51 | Previous convictions - they have to be given a chance to rehabilitate if good behaviour exists. Rent arrears - Universal Credit has caused this - the tenant cannot be held responsible for the governments bad decisions. Three offers should b given. There can be real reasons why properties are not suitable especially where children are involved. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 52 | Refusing two offers of housing should apply if the offer is made at the applicants choosing of area and house type. | Noted |
| 53 | Item 7.Should depend on reasons for refusal | Noted |

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| 54 | There are often reasons for rehousing e.g. too many steps on property. | Only refusals that are considered unreasonable are taken into account. |
| 55 | Depends on convictions. They may be nothing to do with how they are as a tenant or indeed who they are now. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 56 | Depends on what previous convictions are. | Noted |
| 57 | Depends on convictions | Noted |
| 58 | Rent arrears might be due to circumstances beyond their control e.g. loss of work | Rent arrears will only be taken into consideration if there has been no attempt to enter into a repayment plan. |
| 59 | The reasons for no to the answers above are because every situation is unique, the reasons can be outwith control of the tenant i.e. U.C (Universal Credit???) | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 60 | If people who have previous convictions have served their sentence or paid their fine it should not count. As for evictions look to government they cause most poverty. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 61 | The council should act much quicker in sorting out anti-social behaviour - as is the problem in my case with the tenant in flat 2c directly above me. The man is a nightmare! I have reported him a number of times to Mr ***** and to the council's anti-social behaviour group over the last few months but nothing has ever been done about it. The tenant above repeatedly drops very heavy objects on my ceiling at regular intervals - particularly at night - and I am worried about the possibility of the object he drops breaking through my ceiling as it sounds to be a very heavy object. The last time this happened was 12.10am this morning 19/11/18 | Noted |
| 62 | 1 Antisocial behaviour tenant needs help not eviction so many are young people on drugs and drink 3 Reason for previous evictions to be discussed | Noted |
| 63 | In Wallyford there are people like you state above. | Noted |
| 64 | If someone can not look after ELC house then it should be taken off them and given to someone who can look after it right. | Noted |
| 65 | Some offers given not suitable. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 66 | Everybody wants to live quietly and not living next door to drug dealers or people making a lot of noise. Previous convictions dependant on circumstances you do not want pedophiles or sexual abusers living next door especially if young children in the area. | Noted |

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| 67 | The people applying for a house should act responsible to get a house. | Noted |
| 68 | It is a privilege not a right to social housing so anyone who does not respect this, the property or neighbours should ne be given housing. | Noted |
| 69 | Refusing 2 offers of housing cannot be put into the same category as ASB surely?! The state of the houses offers should be taken into account though. | Noted |
| 70 | Because house arrears, times are hard and money is tight these days, so leeway or compromise etc with that one. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 71 | Refusing two offers may be for a legitimate reason. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 72 | Regular inspections of property and gardens should be carried out by the council and any recommendations completed by the tenant or housing benefit reduced. | Noted |
| 73 | All the people with convictions (previous) and are of no bother to others shouldn't be suspended. and depends on convictions. | Noted |
| 74 | Depends on the convictions Rent arrears depends on the situation. | Noted |
| 75 | Sometimes rent arrears can be through no fault of their own. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 76 | Applicants who have committed the above (minus 2) should be moved into designated tenement blocks. They should not be allowed new builds/houses/gardens when they have not shown any respect for the property. This is in comparison to those who work and look after their homes. | Noted |
| 77 | Friend who falsely claim they are separate from partners are given a house each. This should be checked and one house taken away. | If an applicant provides false information in order to get an offer of housing, the Council will take action to recover the property. |
| 78 | Each application should be assessed on the applicants circumstances i.e. rent arrears refusing 2 offers of housing. | Noted |
| 79 | Antisocial behaviour should result in permanent suspension. | Noted |
| 80 | Rent arrears may occur due to sudden loss of job or illness/accident. Convictions may occur for many reasons and this would need clarification. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |

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| 81 | Might end up costing council lots money though - people in such categories often know how to place system | noted |
| 82 | Depends on convictions | noted |
| 83 | I am unsure as it depends on what convictions and evictions. I think people can make mistakes but also learn from them. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 84 | Depends on convictions | Noted |
| 85 | Previous convictions depending for what outstanding arrears they may have put that right. | Noted |
| 86 | Again rent arrears can be due to loss of employment that would be harsh. Refusing offers can be due to distance especially when one has health issues and requires regular medical attention. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 87 | Depends on the convictions Depends on the circumstances | Noted |
| 88 | Previous convictions depends on the nature of the offence | Noted |
| 89 | Abandonment can be for various reasons, sometimes people feel scared alone when last time in tenancy so return to family/other housing and stay in frequently. But if someone live abroad for 6 months is that ok? | Tenants must occupy their tenancy as their main or principle home. |
| 90 | For tenants who pay rent and have no arrears or concerns of any kind it is difficult to live near people who have no respect for their housing or neighbours. | Noted |
| 91 | Refusal of property could be due to un-suitability | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and |
| 92 | Depends on conviction - burglary, sex offence, ASBOS - Yes! | Noted |
| 93 | Again these questions can be taken completely different from case to case and should be dealt with as such instead of 'rules' depending on the circumstances each application will be different and therefore shouldn't be classed the same. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 94 | Depends on the circumstances. | Noted |
| 95 | In many occasions people with previous convictions and all the rest are people that need support, suspension of applications can affect them, I see it as refusing to support them to improve. | Noted |

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| 96 | Antisocial behaviour from tenants is a blight on all neighbourhoods and causes problems to existing tenants who have to suffer the noise at all hours of day and night and the area becomes rundown with constant Police presence causes older residents to feel unsafe in their own homes. | Noted |
| 97 | Depends on the severity of the conviction, depends why they fell into debt with rent. | Noted |
| 98 | Rent arrears could have been through hitting hard times in the past, so should not always be judged as they may be back on their feet again !! Same with previous convictions, may be something from the past | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 99 | It would depend how serious the convictions were if only misdemeanour then it should not mean the application is suspended | Noted |
| 100 | All of these reasons should be on a case by case basis. Yes, I think there are concerns but poverty is growing not shrinking so I think that individual circumstances have to come into consideration | Noted |
| 101 | Rent arrears may not be a valid reason depends on circumstances at the time e.g. un benefit sanctions. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 102 | I thought if was three housing offers but it must have changed. | Noted |
| 103 | I don't believe people should be punished for being unhappy with their 2 offers. people with rent arrears may have lost jobs etc through no fault of their own so suspension seems harsh. As for convictions this depends on the crime and circumstances surrounding it. And evictions depends whether it through bad behaviour or if its no payment of rent due to financial difficulties that couldn't be helped. | Noted |
| 104 | It depends on a persons circumstances if they are unwell or have had family problems | Noted |
| 105 | All above would depend on circumstances which council would probably know about. | Noted |
| 106 | Unsure about suspending after 2 offers of housing, as I was offered 2 unsuitable offers when first allocated a house the councils fault. | Noted |

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| 107 | Antisocial behaviour previous conviction, previous evictions should definitely be taken into account especially if people in the community are at risk. The ones I have answered unsure or no to are because what if they have had to flee in a rush for domestic abuse? They cant always be prepared for the stuff their put through. People who have convictions in regards to children should not be allowed to live near a nursery or school. | Noted |
| 108 | 3 years not enough | Noted |
| 109 | Should depend on what the previous convictions are. | Noted |
| 110 | Many problems can strike at anytime, but efficient plans should be undertaken with a tenant to help both them and council. Equally not looking after council property is unacceptable unless the tenant has health issues. | |
| 111 | Previous convictions question - this would depend on the type of conviction | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 112 | Anti-social behaviour question - unless children are involved Outstanding rent arrears question - Help may be needed in these situations and not always the fault of the tenant Refusing 2 offers question - Unless the housing is adequate, then yes | Noted |
| 113 | Applicants personal circumstances change for the better and more over time, just like everyone elses understanding and communication should intervene within any of these situations. Not victimisation or stereo typing. There is always solutions through discretion. | Noted |
| 114 | The circumstances must be taken into account and people's efforts to change should not be ignored. Also, if such conditions that allowed suspension were the result of an abusive relationship, the person who was abused should not be penalised for them providing the abuser is legally bound to keep away | Noted |
| 115 | Offers can be made in unsuitable areas to applicants at times, reasons must be considered | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 116 | Depends on conviction | Noted |
| 117 | Depends on type of conviction and severity of crime involved. Rent arrears could be result of several different reasons - judgement should be made on consideration of these reasons | Noted |
| 118 | There could be circumstances which have caused their rent arrears. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |

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| 119 | Refusing 2 offers is silly. What if the house is not suitable for their needs or area they would feel comfortable living in. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 120 | There are people out there who have nothing who are of good character and sober in habit. If they work and can pay bills (a chance of a home) | Noted |
| 121 | A lot depends on circumstances to some of these questions. | Noted |
| 122 | If someone is that desperate for a house they wouldn't turn down any offers. I feel 3 offers is too much | Noted |
| 123 | N/A | |
| 124 | Six of these reasons people should not be considered for housing in the same area they've had the chance. As for refusals, two offers - this could be area, neighbours or know that there is antisocial behaviour in the area. | Noted |
| 125 | Previous convictions - dependant on conviction refusing two offers - again this should depend on reason for refusal. | Noted |
| 126 | Depends on the severity of the conviction for me, rent and location of offers. I think each case needs to be looked at individually | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 127 | Unsure about this one as delays in benefit payments may have caused arrears situations. Neglect of council properties is shameful duty as a tenant is to keep it maintained. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 128 | It depends on the applicant if they have mental health problems and want to live nearer relative. | Noted |
| 129 | Person might have mental health problems and want to be closer to home or near drug users and are afraid. | Noted |
| 130 | If the applicant has medical needs, then the refusal of two offers shouldn't apply if the properties are unsuitable for their specific needs | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 131 | Rent arrears - yes only if they have not been cleared. False information - yes only if false information was given offers - could be legitimate reasons for refusal. | Noted |
| 132 | More could be done to insist gardens etc should be kept in a reasonable condition. | Noted |
| 133 | Rent arrears - depends if this is due to universal credit. Was previous offered a house and was disgusting with black bags and smelled, so think 3 offers is sufficient, but being too fussy is not allowed | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |

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| 134 | The reason I put no for rent arrears that a lot of people can have arrears due to financial problems and one bit thing right now that's not working - Universal Credit this should be taken into account seriously. | Noted |
| 135 | Depends what the previous conviction is. Better housing and better environment could help person who has previous convictions. | Noted |
| 136 | Why should non payer through choice anti social behaviour/ abandoned tenancy be allowed to go straight back on to the housing list? | The Scottish Government tells all social housing landlords who must be a priority for housing. |
| 137 | I think it would be harsh to suspend an application due to refusing two offers of housing unless there are homeless as there may be a genuine reason why the have refused houses with regard to rent arrears if the applicant has the means to pay rent but didn't then they should be suspended. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 138 | Number 2 is depending on the convictions | |
| 139 | Previous convictions - depends on how severe the conviction is. | Noted |
| 140 | I don't think it should be the case for refusing two offers of housing as some houses are not suitable for people. Some houses I've had in the past haven't been up to a great standard but you feel you have to take them | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 141 | Circumstances can vary from tenant to tenant. | Noted |
| 142 | Refusing two offers of should depends on what was offered. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 143 | Depending on the applicants situation, by refusing the first 2 offers of housing should not suspend the applicant. It may be that the area is not suitable or the type of house. i.e. a Police/prison officer being allocated an area where some residents have had a criminal background or a house with stairs for a person who cannot go up or down stairs | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 144 | Rent arrears depending on circumstances. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 145 | Outstanding arrears depending on circumstances e.g. my son thought his partner was paying as he was giving money but she didn't pay. | Noted |
| 146 | Although I have never been convicted of anything, you cannot take into consideration things from the past. We would all have things we are not proud of. | Noted |

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| 147 | Depending on which two properties offered. | Noted |
| 148 | Rent arrears can be from benefit changes, or sanctions - sanctions aren't always fair and prove bad behaviour. The council need to make sure rent arrears do not spiral. Refusing 2 offers of housing is not reason to suspend people often need to be close to family, friend, GPS and support services not everyone drives or can afford manage bus journeys etc. Consideration to more vulnerable needs to be factored in the decision! | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 149 | Unsure of 2 answers as it depends on the conviction and also the reason why the got into difficulty with their rent. | Noted |
| 150 | I thought there were 3 offers of housing. | The number of offers was changed to two following a full consultation in 2012. |
| 151 | Not enough checks are made to prevent whole families that clearly display antisocial behaviour elsewhere from being given new properties and continuing that pattern of behaviour in a new property that would be better given to responsible and respectable families. | Noted |
| 152 | There could be a good reason for not paying, not always deliberate, circumstances can change. | each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 153 | I got offered a disabled bungalow, but refused it as it had not parking facilities and no wet room which ELDC had put into my house 1 month before. | Noted |
| 154 | It depends on the situation. I used to live with an ex-partner who was lying to be by not paying rent etc which ended in eviction. I had know knowledge this was happening. I ended the relationship and paid off the debt by myself. So for people like me this should not affect us in the future. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 155 | Convictions can be something when someone did something silly at a young age. A lot of people get into arrears and are evicted because they don't know how to get the help. However if they are evicted due to being bad tenants then no they should be suspended. UC is causing a lot of hardship and arrears at the moment. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 156 | All applicants should be thoroughly vetted before being allocated. | Noted |

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| 157 | Previous convictions is a grey area. Suspensions should fit the crime e.g. child abuse, drug offences etc. New applications should not be to the detriment of others around them, i.e. neighbours. | Noted |
| 158 | Refusal should be allowed as some areas may be inappropriate for personal reasons, we want tenants to feel safe and comfortable to be happy and live positive lives. | Noted |
| 159 | There can be mitigating circumstances with universal credit and rent arrears or reasons for people refusing an area or offer of a house. | Noted |
| 160 | Previous convictions e.g involving drugs (using and selling) | Noted |
| 161 | Housing is always given to the wrong people such as these above and not to people need them like young people. | Noted |
| 162 | Depends on the type of conviction. It would depend on what they were offered any why they were refusing it. | Noted |
| 163 | If housing offers not appropriate to tenant then it would be unfair to use that as refusing two housing offers could happen for a number of reasons. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 164 | Conviction depends on case by case e.g. driving offences its a no but child/adult abuse or drugs definitely yes! | Only relevant convictions are considered that may impact on neighbours/local community. |
| 165 | As area can put people of. And if vulnerable people in bad areas it is not good. | Noted |
| 166 | Depends on reasons for convictions or why people were unable to pay their rent. | Noted |
| 167 | Refusing houses twice is not a lot off times I would say four times I suppose it depends on the area they have been offered, you wouldn't want someone to be put in a house with undesirables on either side. What really annoys me and I see it all the time that people are given houses all the time I know people that have had at least three houses in the last few years which is not fair. It's not right, also people that are coming from different areas even down south are given a house within a reasonable time in front of people that have been on housing list for years. | Noted |
| 168 | I think two offers is too little it should be three | The number of offers was changed to two following a full |
| 169 | Sometimes extenuating circumstances have to be considered. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 170 | All of above should be dependant on facts of individual case. | Noted |
| 171 | I think it would depend on circumstances. | Noted |

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| 172 | Pretty hard drug dealers/pedos/murders should never be allowed a house, arrears can be paid back in instalments neglect can be sorted, lies no good, many people would be glad no matter where they got houses. | Noted |
| 173 | Antisocial behaviour should not be tolerated. Others reasons depend on the situation people find themselves in i.e. rent arrears. | Noted |
| 174 | You should a policy in place for Scottish first. | The Scottish Government tells all social housing landlords who must be a priority for housing. |
| 175 | The money that is spent on the people who are trouble makers should not be rehoused again, they have abused all rights, they will still make the same mistakes. | Noted |
| 176 | I have put no against previous convictions as I would need to know what for and if applicant had turned their life around. The 2 unsure are because they may have been victims. | Noted |
| 177 | Depending on what their convictions were and why they went into rent arrears. | Noted |
| 178 | If area/house offered not suitable for needs then more than two offers would need to be looked at. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 179 | Depends on reason for refusing | |
| 180 | It would depend on circumstances i.e. if they lost their job & no money coming in. | Noted |
| 181 | Damage to property/ or neglect of property could be elderly/they should not be penalised. | Noted |
| 182 | Being in rent arrears can sometimes be outwith a persons control so should not be held against them similarly having been evicted may have been outside someone's control. | noted |
| 183 | The offers of housing could be in terrible areas so if the proposed tenant refuses any offers I do not think it should be held against them. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 184 | Would depend on what the convictions were for would depend in which area the houses were and reason for refusing them. | Noted |
| 185 | Refusing two offers of housing is irrational if someone is needing a house therefore suspending application is a valid reason. | Noted |
| 186 | Previous paedophile rent arrears except claims planning to UC and drug/alcohol related activities | Noted |

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| 187 | I personally know of a drug uses when set fire to his council property, endangering the lives of neighbours, was allocated another property within months. Neighbours were out on the street for hours till fire services deemed it safe. Also smoke damage to houses had to be tackled by each one causing expense to them. No council personel ever came to ask about them. | Noted |
| 188 | Provided every effort has been made to rectify a situation before suspension. | Noted |
| 189 | Rent arrears could be due to benefit payments being delayed or problems with universal credit. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 190 | It is unfair to families who have lived in their home for years to have someone who acts in an antisocial way living next door. Not all previous convictions are serious or threatening to other people | Noted |
| 191 | If they are truly homeless then why turn down the first offer of a house. | Noted |
| 192 | I also believe that each case may have mitigating circumstances. | Noted |
| 193 | Previous convictions - depends on type of conviction Outstanding rent arrears - Depends on the reason why Sometimes the 2 offers of housing are in places where getting to work or schools are a problem | Noted |
| 194 | People go through difficulties with payments at times. It should not go against them | Noted |
| 195 | Would depend on what the conditions are or also what caused previous evictions | Noted |
| 196 | The know the rules and if they break them Council must abide by them and stand solid against them | Noted |
| 197 | Depending on circumstances reasons for refusing two offers | Noted |
| 198 | If they offer to pay their rent arrears, then they should be OK | Noted |
| 199 | Re Housing offers - can't be that in need of house if they keep refusing unless on medical grounds | Noted |
| 200 | Depending on conviction type. For example, someone with a conviction for theft could be OK, but someone convicted of rape would be unacceptable in a place where there are families and vulnerable people | Noted |

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| 201 | If houses are good liveable order, then applicants should take one of the houses. If houses are not in liveable order, then no. The applicant can refuse houses until given a liveable house | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 202 | 1 - depends on time limits and circumstances 2 - Again depends on circumstances 3 - what are the reasons for refusal Flexibility is necessary | Noted |
| 203 | Convictions - depending on type of conviction. Rent arrears - only if rent is still due | Noted |
| 204 | No. 2 - it depends on the conviction. If it is for no car insurance, fine, but if it's for rape then YES | Noted |
| 205 | All depends on what they were convicted for | Noted |
| 206 | Rent arrears can happen to anybody through change of circumstances, Universal Credit for example | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 207 | Depending on conviction. Anyone and everyone deserves a second chance | Noted |
| 208 | It depends on circumstances of arrears on the individual who applied for housing | Noted |
| 209 | Well known fact, got one house, rehoused somewhere else | Noted |
| 210 | Depends on state of house and repairs needed my house was unfit for purpose but I needed a house so had to accept it. I'm still waiting on repairs/. Not happy !! | Noted |
| 211 | Nobody wants to live with someone with antisocial behaviour | Noted |
| 212 | Fair!!! | Noted |
| 213 | Depending on what the convictions were for | Noted |
| 214 | Previous convictions - I think depends on what or how serious the convictions are so unsure how to answer. Some people that commit horrible and sick crimes don't deserve a house in my opinion. People deserve good neighbours | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 215 | It is easy for the council to provide unsuitable houses/locations | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 216 | There are too many honest, hard working people on housing list and deserve to have a home they would look after properly | Noted |
| 217 | The properties offered may not be completely suitable to all applicants, however I agree there must be a limit to offers. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |

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| 218 | Depending on what convictions are. If antisocial behaviour is happening on regular basis & type of behaviour. | Noted |
| 219 | Depends on the type of conviction and how long ago. Possibly refused 3 offers. | Noted |
| 220 | I don't think rent arrears alone should exclude an offer of housing if arrangement to pay can be negotiated. There may be good reasons for refusing offers of housing and this leaves the property available to others, so this on it's own should not be a reason for exclusion. Previous conviction suggests that the required reparation has been met, equity of treatment should be offered. Persistent offences could be considered - hence why I chose "unsure". | Noted |
| 221 | There is some people that rent houses out do struggle to pay on time not intentioned. Not paid intentionally definitely a yes | Noted |
| 222 | 100% agree. YES !! | Noted |
| 223 | Previous abandonment or neglect of property - could be due to ill health, again due to circumstances. Previous outstanding rent arrears - loss of employment. Refusing two offers of housing - are the house well maintained or will be habitable. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 224 | Anti Social Behaviour is grossly unfair to neighbours in the same area. | Noted |
| 225 | I was not offered the choice of another house - so far I have been here 18 years | Noted |
| 226 | Any of the above means they should never be considered for housing from Council | Noted |
| 227 | all should be given a chance due to circumstances. | Noted |
| 228 | 2 offers of housing - depends if suitable | Noted |
| 229 | Tenants who have convictions / antisocial behaviour & neglect property should not be given good property - they don't deserve it and just cost the council more money. | Noted |
| 230 | People should be able to choose where they accept a tenancy. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and |
| 231 | Refusing two offers may mean the area is not suitable (schools travelling to work) previous convictions - depends on what they are. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 232 | I can't even get one house and people with a house causing antisocial behaviour should be evicted and give other people a chance | Noted |

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| 233 | The girl who I spoke to on the phone was always courteous & polite | Noted |
| 234 | Should be more stricter | Noted |
| 235 | Neglected / abandoned - medical, there could be reasons to be investigated. outstanding arrears - should be paid before to avoid further debt | Noted |
| 236 | I don't agree with refusing two offers of housing because some areas don't have good bus service and if you don't drive that is a problem. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 237 | Where a tenancy is neglected feel the Council needs to bring back more checks on properties/gardens. Many tenants allow these to get into bad state and the council pays the cost to upgrade/clean up. | Noted |
| 238 | Not had one offer yet !! | Noted |
| 239 | Depends on the person/convictions and why they were evicted. Everyone falls and can fall on hard times but again, depends on their circumstances. People who can't look after their property shouldn't get one but again depends on circumstances. Difference between not able and won't | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 240 | This "no" marks here - the nature of the conviction should be taken into account | Noted |
| 241 | I am trying to get out of *****, Prestonpans all because of antisocial behaviour neighbour at Number 23. Keeps looking into my window and ring my door bell at all times of the night. My name is ***** | Noted |
| 242 | Some properties have not been property inspected by council, stairs and stair walls unhygienic, but expect tenants to rent/accept it | Noted |
| 243 | Previous convictions should not be a factor. They have served their sentence. Obviously those on licence should be managed but not refused | Noted |
| 244 | I think you should be able to have some sort of choice for living as it will be your life and home with your family. | offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 245 | Depends what the convictions were | Noted |
| 246 | Depends on what convictions | Noted |
| 247 | We were offered property that was thick with black mould and had blood spatters up the wall so in this instance shouldn't count | Noted |

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| 248 | Some people use house a home some use it as a home. Some use it as a den for mates where a family need one | Noted |
| 249 | 2 offers may not include suitable/appropriate premises | Noted |
| 250 | I do believe that people should be given a second chance but people who do not look after the property or to keep it to a high standard have no respect for the system or their neighbours. | Noted |
| 251 | With convictions you have paid your debt - with the rest you haven't. | Noted |
| 252 | Applicants with previous convictions and/or rent arrears should be judged on a case-by-case method. | Noted |
| 253 | As may be an area - do not feel safe | Noted |
| 254 | Give houses to working families or a dad like me who works every day, looks after his 12 year old daughter full time. | Noted |
| 255 | Applicant could find life much harder away from family and friends - not everyone drives | Noted |
| 256 | They will continue to be anti social, peoples circumstances change and finance can be a problem to them. You cannot pick and choose if you are desperate, will take any offer | Noted |
| 257 | There could be multiple reasons why people fall behind with rent or refuse two offers of housing. They shouldn't necessarily be penalised until the reasons are verified. | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 258 | Previous convictions would depend on what they were convicted of if this was a first or repeated offender | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |
| 259 | Again, depends on individual cases. | Noted |
| 260 | Depends on circumstances for refusing two offers | Noted |
| 261 | Refusing no offers could be genuine reasons why houses are just not acceptable, e.g. storage space for a big family | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 262 | May cut down on properties being damaged - budget | Noted |
| 263 | Depends on the conviction depends on the circumstance why they missed payments the offer may not have been deemed suitable by the applicant for the family's needs | Each case will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual. |

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| 264 | <p>1. People may be suffering from mental health problems</p> <p>2. Depending on the nature of the repeated convictions</p> <p>3. after maybe 3 evictions, and for the same reasons</p> <p>4. Definitely</p> <p>5. There will be rent arrears following universal credit. this has in the past gone wrong due to administrative delays in payments</p> <p>6. false information being submitted can lead to an unfair allocation</p> <p>7. Some of the houses are absolutely filthy, they should be in an acceptable condition to offer applicants, this could be used as a means of refusing applicants</p> | Noted |
| 265 | I need a house near my parents as they assist with my medication but being on this list for 14 years and not been offered any housing, this seems a waste of time. | Noted |
| 266 | People need to respect council property and the responsibility that comes with having a council property | Noted |
| 267 | The rent arrears should be taken on a case by case basis and considerations made for those whom fall into arrears with plausible reason for this. Applicants should be allowed to refuse housing offers if it doesn't meet their needs, the policy should allow for a third refusal upon consultation to find out reasons to support applicants. | Noted |
| 268 | if you do not obey by rules set then you shot not be rewarded with a house. | Noted |
| 269 | It's wrong to suspend housing for someone who has refused two properties. Both properties could be unsuitable to the applicant, this needs to be taken in to account. | Offers are only made in an area of the applicants choosing and suitable for their assessed housing needs. |
| 270 | Unsure about rent arrears as a lot of people in financial hard ship. Although help is available it can be difficult to get and some people may have other contributing factors. | Rent arrears will only be taken in to consideration if there has been no attempt to enter in to a repayment plan. |
| 271 | Other than having a financial difficulties of paying rent is the only reason you shouldnt be rejected for offer of a property. All other reasons provided here are perfect reasons not to home people. | Noted |

Q6. INSECURITY OF TENURE POINTSIn December 2017 the Scottish Government introduced a new type of secure tenancy agreement for use by private landlords & tenants. This new agreement offers more security for those renting privately:-- they are open ended and have no set length - the landlord cannot ask their tenant to leave because they have been in the property for six months- there are longer notice periods, if the tenant has been in the property for six months, they will be given a minimum of 84 days notice to leave- the rent can only be increased once a year, with 3 months prior notice givenGiven this tenancy is now more secure, we propose to remove insecurity points from applications with a new private residential tenancy agreement only. (Note: Insecurity points will still be applied to those applications who have an assured or short assured tenancy).Do you agree that tenants with a new private residential tenancy have more security, therefore, the insecurity needs factor should not be applied to their application?

| | Comments | Feedback |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Its still insecure. | Noted |
| 2 | Private renting is far more expensive and could be causing hardship to a family also costly to government if receiving benefit. Caps need to be put in place as to how much landlords charge as to not cause hardship to tenants or lining their pockets from benefit. | Noted |
| 3 | Once again its not an exact science and not every landlord will adhere to the rules. | Noted |
| 4 | Private is ok but very expensive and ok for a stepping stone. | Noted |
| 5 | If a person requires assisted living they should still be regarded as having insecurity needs. | Noted |
| 6 | Does not allow for elderly with mobility or disability to be near family and friends | Tenants are permitted by law to make reasonable adaptations to the private tenancy. |
| 7 | Lack of social housing is forcing people to depend on private rent and the high rents that go with such a tenancy still remain. | Noted |
| 8 | No security when landlords are able to charge what they want and get council to pay. | The Valuation Office Agency sets a Local Housing Allowance rate for each area - this is the set amount that will be paid - which is also affected by the benefits cap. |
| 9 | If the tenant is in private property a landlord should be able to remove a person if they don't look after the property. | The tenant must stick to the terms of their tenancy agreement. |

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| 10 | The Council can't give everybody what they want as long as you have security, quality but most importantly affordability then no matter the location the property should be taken. | Noted |
| 11 | The Council forces you into private rent even when you cant afford it, this is not security. | A Local Housing Allowance can be paid to meet housing costs - this can be dependent on the level of income of the applicant. |
| 12 | Not sure | Noted |
| 13 | Case reviewed if any ASBO or Police/Housing complaint/reports against tenant. | Noted |
| 14 | Haven't a clue about this. | Noted |
| 15 | Absolutely not - mostly singles / single parents who could not afford that rent, who are doing their best to get back on their feet. | Noted |
| 16 | Not sure if consistency of this situation. | Noted |
| 17 | If insecurity points are removed then they receive notice, priority or extra points should be given. | Should the tenant receive Notice - they will be entitled to priority points for re-housing. |
| 18 | Normally its more the cost of private tenancy that's the real issue. Give points for that. | Due to the shortage of social housing, the private rented sector will always be necessary in order to meet the housing needs of the majority of applicants. |
| 19 | There is still an insecurity problem regardless of new sections of agreements. | Noted |
| 20 | A rent rise of above inflation can cause hardship or homelessness for families so not sure about security. | Noted |
| 21 | It is not unheard of that people pretend to live and rent off a landlord who asked them to leave (who they were friends or family of) in order to receive a ELC house. | Noted |
| 22 | Landlords should be able to get their property back when needed with notice to tenant. | Noted |

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| 23 | Strongly disagree. I have lived in private rent for 10 years now. I can honestly say that with living of the thought that you could get a phone call to say we want you out causes me anxiety. I would lead a much happier life in social housing where I could call it my own house. Over the years bettering someone else's home and making improvements, where living in social housing I could do the same and it wouldn't feel like throwing money away. I really don't think we get much recognition for bettering someone else's home. Many Thanks | Due to the shortage of social housing, the private rented sector will always be necessary in order to meet the housing needs of the majority of applicants. |
| 24 | Protection necessary to safeguard families. | Noted |
| 25 | My daughter-in-law has been an excellent private tenant for 14 years. The landlord has now sold the property and she is in temporary accommodation in Musselburgh. She has been an excellent tenant and her previous landlord states this. She has 3 children, one with dyspraxia, and has been given a house in Wallyford with no other choices. This means the children having to move school and leave all their friends. This seems unfair. Why can she not be offered a house in Musselburgh to help her family? | Offers of housing are made in the applicant's area of choice. However, the shortage of social housing means that property can often be unavailable in every area and of a type that meets the required size and health needs of the the household. |
| 26 | I am a single person who works and lives in private let, have been on the waiting list since 1998 the only points I have are insecurity points. | High demand means that only those in most need can be offered social housing. The private rented sector will always be needed to meet housing needs. |
| 27 | Also selected Neither agree nor disagree | Noted |
| 28 | There are still bad landlords and councils must get on top of this. | All landlords must be registered with the Council and deposits lodged in a recognised rent deposit scheme. |
| 29 | Again every situation is not black and white. | Noted |
| 30 | My mother lets properties and mortgage coming to end so ending tenancy extremely stressful as tenants advised to stay in properties. | Noted |
| 31 | Legislation does not stop rogue landlords ending tenancies and often private tenants are unaware of this till too late. | Tenants should always seek advice from a recognised source before agreeing to leave a tenancy i.e. CAB, Shelter, Council |
| 32 | I still think people in private let houses should still have there chance if a council house comes up as they have had to get something as they have their name on housing for years. | High demand means that only those in most need can be offered social housing. The private rented sector will always be needed to meet housing needs. |
| 33 | It depends entirely on the individuals circumstances. There may be very good reason they need to come out of rented property. | Noted |

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| 34 | Not sure that I understand this - if a tenant is in a property for 6 months then given 84 days notice to leave then will they not be homeless if they cannot find other private accommodation to rent? | If a tenant is served a Notice to leave they should first seek advice and then look at their housing options. Priority points would be awarded for re-housing. |
| 35 | I think a cap should be applied to the amount of rent private landlords can charge. | The Local Housing Allowance is a cap on the amount that will be paid by the Government. |
| 36 | Tenants should be secure within their home provided they meet their tenancy agreement. | Noted |
| 37 | Don't really understand this question. | Noted |
| 38 | Depends on situation | Noted |
| 39 | No happened to me, left homeless. | Noted |
| 40 | Why is the Scottish Government making it less attractive for private landlords when we have a housing shortage. | Noted |
| 41 | Private renting is horrible and expensive | Noted |
| 42 | Depends what they have done to be evicted if it is illegal yes. | Noted |
| 43 | Rent for private property can be a lot more expensive and it may be a financial need that drives the need for council housing. | Noted |
| 44 | Each circumstance is different (for council to assess and decide) | Noted |
| 45 | They might have more security but the cost of them can be far too high for some families. I have a friend in the same house as mine who pays triple of what I do in rent to a private landlord. | Local Housing Allowance is available to assist with housing costs for those on low incomes. |
| 46 | Again this will change case by case depending on circumstances and should be handled as such. | Noted |
| 47 | Yes, good change, a probation period for tenancy will give an option to vet the tenants and faster procedure of termination when is needed. The current process of termination is very long and in many occasions not effective. | Noted |
| 48 | on a case by case basis | Noted |
| 49 | You cannot ever settle as you get notice to leave. I have had to move my family 4 times in 9 years which has resulted in my children feeling insecure. I also have to work 2 jobs to afford the private rental account | Noted |

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| 50 | Most people who have a private let are on the housing list and have no other choice but to pay an extortionate rent so they can have a roof over their heads. They should be given as much consideration as everyone else on the list | High demand means that only those in most need can be offered social housing. The private rented sector will always be needed to meet housing needs. |
| 51 | I believe that private landlords (not housing association) are not sustainable and therefore insecure by nature. I believe that the only answer is a graduate move towards sustainable social housing by Councils and Housing Associations | Noted |
| 52 | Why should a tenant get put out if they have done nothing wrong. | Noted |
| 53 | unsure | Noted |
| 54 | People because being made homeless need to jump into private because they are desperate | Noted |
| 55 | If a tenants financial circumstances change and they are no longer able to pay the high rents that are normally charged for private lets, the insecurity this would cause should entitle them to receive security points. | If a tenant is served a Notice to leave they should first seek advice and then look at their housing options. Priority points would be awarded for re-housing. |
| 56 | What if tenant is a bad tenant, take it you will have rules on this happening | Provision is still made to issue a Notice to Leave to tenants that breach their agreements. |
| 57 | More security for tenants especially to the vulnerable and to tenants with children. | Noted |
| 58 | They can still be asked to leave at anytime | Tenants should always seek advice from a recognised source before agreeing to leave a tenancy i.e. CAB, Shelter, Council |
| 59 | In the case of private landlords it is very important for tenants to have security especially for children when children are moved from place to place it causes difficulty and impacts on their learning | Noted |
| 60 | No because a six month or yearly lease of a property still does not give a tenant security. A you put it nor does an 84 day notice. Security is only achieved by giving a tenant the time it takes to find a suitable new tenancy? Tenants at the same time should provide proof of actively seeking new tenancy. Landlords also need to be more understanding of their tenants. | Noted |
| 61 | The quality of rented property needs to be taken into account and rent levels must be controlled legally. In fact a Government body should be responsible for controlling landlords and preventing abuse of tenants vulnerabilities | The Valuation Office Agency sets a Local Housing Allowance rate for each area - this is the set amount that will be paid - which is also affected by the benefits cap. |
| 62 | Tenancy may be temporary until appropriate area/house becomes available in certain circumstances | Noted |

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| 63 | It's a lot more expensive for those who rent privately. For a family with 2 or 3 children of school age the money saved if renting a council property would be welcome. | Noted |
| 64 | 2017 Act provides for only a limited security | Noted |
| 65 | More security is fine - but if a landlord wants someone out it can be difficult for the tenant to stay. | Tenants should always seek advice from a recognised source before agreeing to leave a tenancy i.e. CAB, Shelter, Council |
| 66 | N/A | Noted |
| 67 | I live in private rent which is £642 a month. I have no idea how I will be able to pay this if I retire (at present I am coming up for 56). | The Local Housing Allowance is available to those who are on a low income. |
| 68 | Circumstances can change and private renting may not be affordable. | Noted |
| 69 | I think landlords will find away round this they always do when money is involved. Even the Council do this. | Noted |
| 70 | Private renting is ridiculously high and some people renting private struggle to afford it but struggle for a tenancy in Social Housing. | Noted |
| 71 | What I would say if you build more houses and don't put people in private rent then the government wouldn't have to pay out so much in housing benefit with affordable home and landlords should be given a price cap on there properties to rent. | Noted |
| 72 | Unsure | Noted |
| 73 | The new agreement seems to improve the position of the tenant. However, it seems to me that the Landlord has still too much strength. Even with a rent increase "only" once a year, the increase (amount) seems to be up to the landlord, a six-month no-eviction rule could be much too short for many private tenants. So that deep insecurity can still be felt by the tenant. Doubtless, there are some conscientious private landlords, but the main aim of the money is to extract as much as possible from the tenant | Noted |
| 74 | I think private tenants who have their name on council list should still have insecurity points. They obviously want a council house and shouldn't be penalised for that. | Due to the shortage of social housing, the private rented sector will always be necessary in order to meet the housing needs of the majority of applicants. |
| 75 | Don't understand the question. | Noted |

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| 76 | Most private tenancies are very expensive. Everyone should be give the chance to have a more affordable rent if they cannot secure a mortgage. Also private landlords are less likely to modernise their property and give personal experience are never in a hurry to do repairs. | There is legislation in place to ensure landlords carry out repairs. All landlords should be registered with the Council in the first instance. |
| 77 | Landlords in the private section are a law unto themselves - some good/some bad | Tenants should always seek advice from a recognised source before agreeing to leave a tenancy i.e. CAB, Shelter, Council |
| 78 | Tenancy may be unsecure for other reasons. | Noted |
| 79 | No idea what this actually means!!? | Noted |
| 80 | I have no idea what this section means | Noted |
| 81 | I personally found myself having to take a private let which I would never want to live in but with high rents & deposits had little choice. Therefore people are more likely to find themselves isolated from family / support and in areas that are not suitable. I find insecurity points are still important and private landlords need regulated more to ensure they follow the new rules. | Due to the shortage of social housing, the private rented sector will always be necessary in order to meet the housing needs of the majority of applicants. |
| 82 | Too many people leave private let and get house with the council while others can't get a council house but have to struggle in private let. | The Scottish Government tells all social landlords who must received priority for social housing. |
| 83 | I feel private landlords are in it for the money! There should be a cap on how much a landlord can for rent. Some private landlords (nearly all) are asking way over the price for a rental, rental prices should reflect council rental rates in local area. | The Valuation Office Agency sets a Local Housing Allowance rate for each area - this is the set amount that will be paid - which is also affected by the benefits cap. |
| 84 | Don't know enough about this | Noted |
| 85 | Depends on individuals involved | Noted |
| 86 | I do not think point should be changed increased/decreased to anyone in private rental as having been in private rental myself for 9 years before I was offered housing I know how difficult it can be in many ways especially financially | Noted |
| 87 | Each case should be looked at on merit level of rent for a worker could be unfair. A benefits recipient gets rent paid by state. | Noted |
| 88 | Yes more security is needed | Noted |
| 89 | Neither agree nor disagree and Disagree where selected | Noted |
| 90 | Great plan, private landlords can be nasty, to private lets. | Noted |
| 91 | Neither agree or disagree and disagree was selected | Noted |

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| 92 | Private Landlords charge double the amount than council we end up paying landlords as most are on benefit, would it not make more sense rather than pay landlords all that money to put a cap on rent they can charge say £50 more than council for a month that would give more money to build council houses instead of landlords lining their pockets with our money. The council needs to be more firm with landlords they buy for profit and buy up houses that council could buy and save a fortune. | The Valuation Office Agency sets a Local Housing Allowance rate for each area - this is the set amount that will be paid - which is also affected by the benefits cap. |
| 93 | Not sure about this question. | Noted |
| 94 | Would they be rehoused within the 84 days by council. | Should the tenant receive Notice - they will be entitled to priority points for re-housing. |
| 95 | I understand the points been taking away from the applicants but they shouldn't for other areas of insecurity. | Noted |
| 96 | What's to stop private landlords from increasing rents (by 20% or more) that the tenants couldn't possibly afford. | All rent increases can be referred to the Rent Officer if felt unreasonable and they will make a decision on the rent. |
| 97 | it may stop people renting privately as they will not get extra points for homelessness thus increasing the amount of homeless applications. | If a tenant is served a Notice to leave they should first seek advice and then look at their housing options. Priority points would be awarded for re-housing. |
| 98 | Private landlord still do it even though its against the law. | Tenants should always seek advice from a recognised source before agreeing to leave a tenancy i.e. CAB, Shelter, Council |
| 99 | Having had to rent from a private landlord for the last 15 years because I haven't been offered a council housing or housing association property, I still feel that my tenancy is insecure longer term. Landlords can find ways round the new legislation. More control of private rents should be in place as its very expensive and properties are often in poor condition. | Noted |
| 100 | They may have to leave for no reason | Noted |
| 101 | Private rent is more expensive and can stop applicant moving on as they know they would not be able to provide the rent | Noted |
| 102 | Don't understand the question | Noted |
| 103 | Landlords still have control | Noted |
| 104 | Tenants have too many rights and get away with too much | Noted |
| 105 | Unsure | Noted |
| 106 | It really depends on individual circumstances | Noted |
| 107 | I just do not know. | Noted |

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| 108 | Every situation is different and should be looked at thoroughly and decided upon uniquely in individual cases. The private residential tenancies are a disgrace. Landlords should be looked on as criminals in some cases where greed for money runs riot with people's lives. This subject is extremely important and new tenancy agreements does not necessarily mean better security for people. Should be a long term tenancy to let families and individuals know they will not be evicted with a threat of homelessness anytime soon and at any cost, i.e. their lives or their sanity !!! | Noted |
| 109 | Don't agree that the rent can be increased any time | All rent increases can should only happen after 3 months notice and once per year. |
| 110 | Control over what private landlords charge is long overdue, as greed is making it impossible for many people to afford private rents. | Noted |
| 111 | Private rents for 2 bed properties are £750-£1000 per month - those who prioritise their rent are left below the property line are then penalised as those who lose their private let due to arrears are given a council house/temp house and those who pay their rent will never be housed by the Council | Noted |
| 112 | I have never had these points. I mid market rent on an occupancy agreement, yes these points should stay | Noted |
| 113 | The points system should be the same for everyone waiting for a house except those who cause trouble | Noted |
| 114 | Security | Noted |
| 115 | If rules/regulations are made clear at start of tenancy. 84 days seems a good amount of notice unless elderly or young children involved | Noted |
| 116 | Please don't take points away from us. We have only got 8 points and we need a house. A home, our home , not someone else's house that we are in. | High demand means that only those in most need can be offered social housing. The private rented sector will always be needed to meet housing needs. |
| 117 | The points should be reduced | Noted |
| 118 | Private residential tenancy is often only a short term period until council property is available and is more expensive | Noted |
| 119 | Now they can't say insecure and pass someone in need | Noted |

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| 120 | Landlords circumstances may change, move abroad to work, death, may need to sell property if become financially unstable. Property may need major renovation requiring tenant to move on, Landlord may need property as his main abode. An end date perhaps should be discussed, i.e. 3 years, 5 years, 10 years to enable planning for both parties. Who are these people (a) those on long tenancies (b) those in premises provided by employers i.e. farms, housekeepers | Noted |
| 121 | Again this should be assessed individually as the private rents and council tax in this area are very high even for people who are working especially single people. | Noted |
| 122 | Why? | Noted |
| 123 | "more security" does not equate with "less security". This may not just be financial/tenancy issues, for example, with age people may become less financially able/less physically able to move. | Noted |
| 124 | Sheltered Housing should have a live in manager where they can be called for security of the building and for illness and accidents with the elderly. | Noted |
| 125 | I don't think the new tenancy agreement gives them more security, just longer to find somewhere else. | Noted |
| 126 | The council have been selling council houses to people who buy the house and then rent it out so they now have two houses. Disgraceful !! | Noted |
| 127 | Being in private letting - this is very high rent - single would like a more affordable rent - social. | Noted |
| 128 | Depends on individual circumstances. A single/couple person(s) who have no ties in their community can find it easier to move to any property in 84 days than a family of 4 who have children in the local school and community groups. 84 days may not always be enough to find something local and affordable. | Noted |
| 129 | Private renting is far too expensive as it is and still is not a forever home as it's still not 100% secure. | Noted |

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| 130 | <p>When in private tenancy, tenants can still be struggling with rent/debts, I think anyone in this category should be looked at in individual cases. In my own experience, our landlord makes any excuse not to carry out repairs -we had no cooking facilities for over 3 weeks as although it was condemned, he tried to get a spare part (although the cooker was over 10 yrs old). Our landlord has a lot of rules, no pets or no decorations unless it is a specific paint - we can't afford to buy the paint and the landlord is not willing to decorate although we have been renting the property for a number of years now.</p> | Noted |
| 131 | <p>Everyone should feel secure enough that their home can be their home for as long as they pay their rent on time and keep the property to the landlords specifications.</p> | Noted |

Q7. HOMELESSNESS APPLICATIONS & REVIEW PERIOD FOR AREAS OF CHOICE

From November 2017, applicants that had been accepted for rehousing under homelessness legislation were asked to review the areas of choice contained in their application for housing if they had not received an offer within six months. Given their urgent need for rehousing it was reasonable that following the review they are asked to select at least one main town and all suitable property types & sizes within that area - with a view to maximising their housing options. Due to the low turnover of lets available as a whole (493 lets across East Lothian in 2017/18), we propose that this should continue. Do you feel that after a period of six months, that obtaining good quality, secure and affordable property should take precedence over being able to wait for a particular area and property type?

| | Comments | Feedback |
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| 1 | However more assistance should be given to tenants looking to do a mutual exchange to the area they want. Often people are in areas with no friends or family and poor transport. This can make tenants unhappy. A quicker more organised way of exchanging should be looked at. The Council appear to rely on tenants using facebook to organise exchanges. | Council House exchanges are carried out in conjunction with East Lothian Housing Association via their website. |
| 2 | If not given there selected area, it could and will create more problems. | Turnover of social housing is very low in some areas of the county. |
| 3 | I think area shouldn't matter but size should and also property type e.g. top flat for a wheelchair user. | Offers of housing are suitable for a family's size and assessed health needs. |
| 4 | As long as its in the town or surrounding area - not miles away. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 5 | If they are desperate for housing they will not argue about where. | Noted |
| 6 | If it doesn't effect the children (change of school, losing their friends) | Noted |
| 7 | Sometimes the area is the most important thing and travel and expense to travel is a major factor to where you live. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 8 | May have mental health problems and need specific area for support network. | Offers of housing are suitable for a family's size and assessed health needs. |
| 9 | As long as its on a transport (public) route, with frequent service if a non car owner. | Noted |

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| 10 | Person may need family and friends around because of certain issues example illness, mental health, child care - uprooting children from schools | Noted |
| 11 | If you are homeless you should not be allowed to cherry pick areas and house types. | Noted |
| 12 | This could force someone into isolation, think this has to be individual circumstances based. It could be for access to children etc. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 13 | Yes, in theory but what if people had children and they had to be uprooted from schools and extended family. | Unfortunately, the turnover of social housing is low in some areas of the County. It may be necessary for a child to move schools but providing a secure home should always be a priority. |
| 14 | People may not pick a certain area due to work commitments school, etc. | Noted |
| 15 | Basically agree but think there could be exceptions e.g. if a person has a low paid job in one town and can't drive, or is infirm and has relatives in the town they have chosen. | The applicant can select their choice of main town. |
| 16 | People need to be in certain towns for support and care should still count. | The applicant can select their choice of main town. |
| 17 | As they may need support from relative in the area they have asked for. | Noted |
| 18 | If you need a house you take it - you can exchange after. | Noted |
| 19 | Depends on individual circumstances | Noted |
| 20 | In some cases there is the need to live in a particular town/area i.e. other parents address, school children attend etc | The applicant can select their choice of main town. |
| 21 | Depends on Circumstances. | Noted |
| 22 | There will be situations where individuals need support of family etc, living nearby if they are vulnerable. | Noted |
| 23 | For single parents life myself family in proximity is of upmost importance. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. Other tenures may offer the opportunity to live closer to family. |
| 24 | Mothers with buggies cannot be expected to live in a flat higher than ground level. Have you tried to lug a toddler, baby in pram and shopping up 2 flights of stairs. | Noted |
| 25 | I think that their needs should be taken into consideration - family; school; work; can drive or not. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |

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| 26 | Location is key for most people. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. Other tenures may offer more choice. |
| 27 | People should not be forced into unsuitable accommodation or areas where they will be unhappy. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 28 | Some people do not want to move in anywhere just to secure a home, to then have to keep trying to find their forever home | The applicant can select their choice of main town but the urgency of their housing need should be a priority. |
| 29 | This house will hopefully be the homeless persons forever home. They should not be forced into accommodation after 6 months. The persons mental health and affect on their life should be considered. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 30 | Elderly, young families and people with medical conditions should be able to wait to get a house that suits their needs and to be nearer to family. | Offers of housing are suitable for a family's size and assessed health needs. |
| 31 | Family, work, previous conflict, can be factors in accepting or declining a property but generally I agree with proposal. | Noted |
| 32 | Disabilities, family, schooling, care of family members, mental health etc., should all be included when deciding where to live. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 33 | If you are homeless a roof over your head is priority. Unless the individual doesn't drive and there is no suitable transport to hold down their job. | Noted |
| 34 | Depends on someones medical needs. | Offers of housing are suitable for a family's size and assessed health needs. |
| 35 | Just be careful what you are offered. | Noted |
| 36 | This policy is causing real distress. We should be aiming for the least disruption possible when children are concerned. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 37 | Depends on individual needs. | Noted |
| 38 | Neither agree nor disagree also selected. | Noted |
| 39 | Property needs are paramount to applicants. People need to feel safe & secure & this usually happens in a place they know or have ties with. | The applicant can select their choice of main town but the urgency of their housing need should be a priority. |
| 40 | Unless a person needs a house (in an area) - to help & do shopping etc for elderly parents | Noted |

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| 41 | In my circumstances my young son lives with my ex wife in Dunbar so I would have to be local to him | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 42 | Yes, like the man said "you cant always get what you want but if you try sometimes you get what you need" | Noted |
| 43 | They should have to wait longer than six months, only if children are involved. | Noted |
| 44 | As long as it is within reasonable distance of work/schools/family and friends. | Noted |
| 45 | Perhaps if the tenant on waiting list requires to be near and on hand of family members who give support or respite need to be in a specific area they should not be made to take a property just because its secure, affordable and in certain area. | Noted |
| 46 | Only offer one house anywhere. | Noted |
| 47 | It should be first and only choice in any area dependant on circumstances. | Noted |
| 48 | If they are homeless they should be glad to have any house | Noted |
| 49 | A lot of people that wait a area some people grow up in the area yes if they have its a different matter and go to another but that is why they put in for area they want. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 50 | If there are school children involved they should be housed where possible within the catchment area of their school. | Noted |
| 51 | I agree there should be a review. But I personally wouldn't want to feel pressured into accepting an area that might not be right for my circumstances or wellbeing. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 52 | Being homeless is a horrible ordeal (your temp accommodation is disgusting) you shouldn't further the ordeal by making someone move where they don't want to be. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 53 | There may be many supporting factors as to why an applicant may need a particular area or property type. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 54 | But if they have family support in one part of E Lothian and are offered accommodation in another area it should be accessible by one bus journey to allow that support to continue. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 55 | All circumstances should be taken into account in order to decide outcome. | Noted |

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| 56 | Depends on the persons reason for that area or resource they need or if family are near. | Noted |
| 57 | Just don't know depends on circumstances | Noted |
| 58 | Some people need to be in certain areas for certain reasons i.e. kids school, illness, sick family member. | Noted |
| 59 | 6 months is very generous. 3 months is more realistic. You are either homeless or not - holding out for a specific house type is nonsense unless there is an identified need for a specific house type. 3 months for applicants with school age children is sufficient time to sort out schools etc. | Noted |
| 60 | House is a house be thankful you have a roof over your head. | Noted |
| 61 | With consideration of bus routes etc for work or school. | Noted |
| 62 | If you need housed the sooner the better. | Noted |
| 63 | Bad enough being homeless without them being move to an unfamiliar area away from where they want to be. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 64 | The strongly desired property is desired because the tenants there are all living without arrears or convictions of any trouble. The areas look neat and tidy perhaps if the less appreciative tenants were integrated more evenly we would have less undesirable area. | Noted |
| 65 | Yes, related to my previous comment on homelessness application that will reduce the numbers of people abusing the process. If applicants can wait 6 months are they in real need??? Refusing properties?? You may start asking them what colour to paint the walls in the living room. | Noted |
| 66 | Children will be in school, relatives and support networks nearby. This could cause mental health issues and isolation | Noted |
| 67 | Some applicants may need to be in a particular area for support network, schools or another good reason. Each case should be treated individually | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 68 | Six months is not very long. I waited 4 years and that was a long time ago when housing was far more available | Noted |

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| 69 | If there is houses for homeless people why should they get first when people have more points than them. | Noted |
| 70 | If some one works in a specific area and this area is their choice because of that reason then I think they shouldn't be asked to change that. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 71 | But in same council would take into consideration where family might be or work | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 72 | Some people rely on the support of family and circumstances and should have the right to live in the community of there choice. | Noted |
| 73 | Depends if they are waiting for a specific property type or a reason to be near carers or mobility needs | Noted |
| 74 | Agree if distance is an acceptable one. | Noted |
| 75 | With social need taking precedence I feel that the priority is the area for some, and the property itself for others. It is not always so easy to categorise 'need' as having houses available, as it is to have link to support networks for those whose lives are significantly affected by becoming homeless in any case. | Noted |
| 76 | A lot of homeless people have mental health issues. They may be comfortable in a particular area and have a support network there. | Noted |
| 77 | People should be grateful for the offer of housing. Having been homeless long ago it was terrible feeling lost with no future to look too. | Noted |
| 78 | Some area's are not good (drug abuse etc) and are very difficult to get out of? Surely this must be considered when housing vulnerable people? They should not be pushed into taking a house in a known bad area. | Noted |
| 79 | N/A | Noted |
| 80 | There may be a need to remain in a specific area for support of family or friends. Just because someone becomes homeless does not mean family/friends no longer care for them. It may be due to difficult circumstances. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |

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| 81 | I think obtaining a good quality affordable property is very important but in a location that the applicant wasn't to stay in, Personally I would want to remain in my home town | Noted |
| 82 | The applicant may have job/education opportunity in their chosen area, or family | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 83 | If not special circumstances people waiting on particular area for health reasons i.e. to be near family etc should be able to wait for that area. | Noted |
| 84 | I filled out my form and was offered a property in a different area and different house type than I wanted but had to take it because of the one offer. | Noted |
| 85 | Please not if you force a person to take a house in an area they don't like and know no one this could cause a person to feel isolated or if the area is bad to live in. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 86 | If the tenant doesn't want a good quality, secure and affordable home - let them wait, somebody else will want it. | Noted |
| 87 | If someone is homeless, I don't think they can be choosy, some home owners as you are aware would like to have a bigger house, bungalow live in a different town, but for I imagine financial reason prevent them from moving to area/street and number of rooms they really would like. | Noted |
| 88 | This could cause several complications e.g. work, moving away from family. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. |
| 89 | In some circumstances kids and schooling is important to maintain but in other circumstances whee there is no tie to that area. | Noted |
| 90 | Some points of East Lothian where I live are not nice. | Noted |
| 91 | People should be able to stay where they want or as close to it. | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. Other tenures may offer more choice. |
| 92 | I think they should accept any property offered if they are in such need | Noted |
| 93 | As a victim of domestic abuse and rape it is important for me to be near a family member for support | Noted |

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| 94 | As long as it's suitable for them and they are near family or work etc. so they aren't isolated of they accept a house outwith their chosen areas | There is an urgent need for rehousing when an applicant is homeless. The applicant can select their main town. Other tenures may offer more choice. |
| 95 | Same answer as for application suspensions | Noted |
| 96 | There may be reasons (family, health etc) that a person requires a particular area. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 97 | I agree getting a roof over your head as soon as possible is important, but the area needs to be a factor. Housing sometimes vulnerable homeless people far from the support of family, friends, GP surgeries and familiar services isn't helpful. | Noted |
| 98 | Depends on reason like violence | Noted |
| 99 | I agree on area as maybe support is needed but some people now only want certain streets and houses. I don't think they should have that choice. | Noted |
| 100 | 6 months should be extened | Noted |
| 101 | Put the houses/flats online then people mite choice to go to a different area if they have the choice to bid for the property they can look if they could still get to schools , work , college, hospital they can see if they could live there. | Noted |
| 102 | Homeless people are usually vulnerable therefore need to be housed in an area were they feel safe. However long it takes. | Noted |
| 103 | I feel although some homeless people do not work others do and need to be nearer their work place. | Noted |
| 104 | All people needs are different no one should be forced to live somewhere they don't want to. | Noted |
| 105 | Unless the area is totally unreasonable | Noted |
| 106 | Strongly agree and Agree selected. | Noted |
| 107 | Unless for example someone with childcare needs, needs to be near a relative or there would be disruption to schooling and rare exceptions. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 108 | Plenty there to pick a location. | Noted |
| 109 | There are reasons why people choose areas - to be near family, employment, transport. | Noted |
| 110 | Strongly agree and agree was selected | Noted |

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| 111 | Homeless people need help, what are family's not involved or friends that is what's wrong, parents kicking out kids maybe there should be working with family to keep them together before it gets to that. People who are born in Britain should have priority they have paid with tax, N Insurance and everyone should be housed within a area that friends and family for support less people would suffer depression. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 112 | Depending why they want to stay in a certain area. Might be because of family & their dependency on family or their family dependency on them. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 113 | I agree however I think if children are involved and are maybe at school/nursery, settles then I think they should be given priority of choice of area. | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 114 | If the property is too far from the applicants work, making it impractical for the person to work. They should not have to accept it. | Noted |
| 115 | They should be offered but not made to take it. | Noted |
| 116 | As little change as possible especially when children are in the household. Don't make them move school please. | Noted |
| 117 | Depends on individuals circumstances ie disabled. | Noted |
| 118 | I have been waiting for one year and still haven't had any offers | Noted |
| 119 | Though do think it should be looked into as to why they want a specific area for example, if the child attends school there | Applicants would be asked to extend the areas to include a main town of their choice. |
| 120 | If this is going to be your forever home you should have the choice of where it is | Noted |
| 121 | Mitigating circumstances may dictate where a family / person requires to be. Providing proof should be a priority by the applicant. | Noted |
| 122 | I personally feel people are too fussy and should get what they are given | Noted |
| 123 | If they request any are that is close to family etc. putting them in another area will only cause problems for homeless applicant | Noted |
| 124 | don't know | Noted |
| 125 | But not if it is going to affect their job security | Noted |
| 126 | Depends on individual circumstances of homelessness | Noted |

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| 127 | We can't always get exactly where we want to live. As long as it's close to where they select, I feel if they were homeless then it should be acceptable | Noted |
| 128 | In some cases although some people may have a reason to be in or close to a particular town if ill relative, kids settled at school etc. | Noted |
| 129 | Depends on why area is chosen. | Noted |
| 130 | After all, most tenants shall not move again, therefore it is important they are settled, a win, win situation for everyone, tenant and Council | Noted |
| 131 | Depends on circumstances. Someone may not drive and needs to live near family for support i.e. children. | Noted |
| 132 | Community and local support networks can be crucial to some people, so I would like to think that circumstances will allow for some flexibility | Noted |
| 133 | Much depends on the health and age of an applicant. Can this person function on their own mentally and or physically or do they need support, is there sufficient back up considering the cut backs now in force. Sorry if this is very disappointing but I have recently had a head injury after a fall and was in hospital for 4 days in Durham. | Noted |
| 134 | Location and suitability for the applicant is very important. | Noted |
| 135 | Unless there is a good reason, i.e. family needed for care or children | Noted |
| 136 | Everyone's needs are different - personally I need to be rehoused near family. | Noted |
| 137 | People with a bigger family should be helped more | Noted |
| 138 | Affordability over appearance | Noted |
| 139 | as long as there is a bus service available I agree | Noted |
| 140 | Dependent on circumstances | Noted |
| 141 | People with needs could be looked at more. Some people can't live in some places offered. It's hard as hands are tied. Some need their family, some need to get away, again every situation is different. Just needs to be addressed accordingly | Noted |
| 142 | Tenants can upgrade areas by their care and attention to the properties and the gardens, although this often brings down areas. No tools left to maintain gardens, but these are stolen and sold for money for habits | Noted |

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| 143 | It is dependent on individual circumstances. Some people may have a very good reason for wanting one area or property type | Noted |
| 144 | Only if they have or need to be near family | Noted |
| 145 | If they are offered a house in any area they should take it and put in for a swap | Noted |
| 146 | But - what about any connections made in area or better to start a new life elsewhere. Consider age, health, work, family or singles etc. | Noted |
| 147 | People in these circumstances may need their family around them for support or to be near employment for future stability. | Noted |
| 148 | Building 3/4 bedroom homes is not the answer. | Noted |
| 149 | If you are homeless you should be grateful for whatever property is available, in whatever area. | Noted |
| 150 | yes | Noted |
| 151 | Depending on areas, why should decent tenants have to end up in bad areas through no fault of their own. Couples who separate with children should NOT both be re-housed, just the main parent who has the main care of the children. | Noted |
| 152 | Family links to a specific area are very important | Noted |
| 153 | If you're desperate for housing, be thankful for your offer, try exchange if not satisfied, you can't please everyone. | Noted |
| 154 | Others also need consideration | Noted |
| 155 | If they are homeless it is the fault of the council for selling off the council housing stock and now they are allowing companies to build, provide houses when the house that was sold should be built there to make up for this. Shocking | Noted |
| 156 | Giving choice is good in society. After 6 months, if turned down, they should be suspended | Noted |
| 157 | It's not just about securing a quality, secure and affordable house. The house does not have quality when you have to reduce the time spent with your children on access because you are too far away to collect them and take them to school as often as you need to and the house become insecure and unaffordable when more of your wages must be spent on travel expenses to and from work. | Noted |
| 158 | Depends on circumstances. I know I am only down for Port Seton as my son has autism so wouldn't cope in other areas. | Noted |

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| 159 | Workplace and public transport needs to be considered. This affects "area" not "property type" | Noted |
| 160 | Someone might have the need to be in a specific area for really good reasons - for example - caring for elderly family and can't drive, work etc | Noted |
| 161 | It depends on why they need those areas for if its a secure a safe place for them and their family or be it to be near family or friends or if its an area they feel safe and know for living there before. | Noted |

Q8. TRANSFER APPLICANTS LIVING IN A TENEMENTAL PROPERTY OR WHO SHARE A STAIRWAY

Some applicants already live in an East Lothian Council tenemental flat or a flat with a shared stairway. These Council tenants may wish to move from their flat to another type of Council property. It is proposed to award four points to those tenants with children aged 5 or under, when they apply to transfer to another property, and award three points to all other tenants who live in this type of flat.

Do you agree with this proposal to enable existing tenants in flats with shared stairways to move?

| | Comments | Feedback |
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| 1 | Outdoor space is important for young children. | Noted |
| 2 | Children under 5 yes. Old people, yes. Others - depending on what type of neighbours they have. | Noted |
| 3 | It would create more antisocial behaviour in tenements | Noted |
| 4 | Having lived in a block of flats with a new born baby, I don't think any one with young children should be put in a flat. My experience was horrendous with the other tenants and the police were out at least 3 times a week. | Unfortunately, we no longer have sufficient turnover of housing to ensure that everyone has a groundfloor property. |
| 5 | It depends how you're behaving. It shouldn't be treated as a reward for every council tenant (antisocial behaviour) | Noted |
| 6 | Will the points be taken away when the child is 5? Tenants knew they were taking a flat when they took the tenancy why get 3 points as a bonus | The points will reduce when the child is over 5 years old. |
| 7 | I agree with giving people with kids under 5 more points but don't see why others should get points. | Tenants on the Transfer List, who live in a shared stairway may wish to move to an alternative property type. |
| 8 | Why? In Edinburgh plenty of families live in tenements - whats wrong with it? | Noted |
| 9 | Then everyone with children under 5 should be given same opportunity. | Noted |
| 10 | Children under 12 would be fairer. | Noted |
| 11 | I agree as its really difficult living in a stairway with young children. | Noted |
| 12 | Yes, important for children to have outdoor access and more space | Noted |
| 13 | I would say way more than 5 points, especially for children with hidden disabilities. | Noted - applicants can apply for additional priority points via the Health & Housing process. |
| 14 | Living in my stairwell is a disaster. I'm really happy that we're not forgotten here. | Noted. |
| 15 | No need for them to be given extra points over others who need them more. | Noted. |

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| 16 | People suffering a stroke need ground flat or main door. | Noted. |
| 17 | Older people should be a priority as stairs are not easy to use for the elderly. | Noted - applicants can apply for additional priority points via the Health & Housing process. |
| 18 | Ground floor or 1st floor flats should be given to people with mobility problems. | Noted |
| 19 | Only if kids under 5. | Noted |
| 20 | Lived in a flat for many years - did not harm my kids. | Noted |
| 21 | Growing families need a better layout for prams etc., garden for their children. | Noted |
| 22 | Also think the child age should be higher, a child doesn't grow up after they are 5 | Noted |
| 23 | As parents of 5 year olds are normally young and fit I feel consideration should be given to elderly and disabled so the point system is unfair in these circumstances and stairs may help to alleviate the obesity in the young that the government keep complaining about. As with every case there could be mitigating circumstances so each case should be treated individually with common sense . | Noted |
| 24 | Same points for all | Noted |
| 25 | In situations where it is difficult to access the flat (i.e. health or buggies etc) I agree. | Noted |
| 26 | Others might have a greater need | Noted |
| 27 | We live in a shared stair private tenancy with a smack head opposite, my husband has PTSD we need our own front door not shared. | Noted |
| 28 | Children and young families should have priority to property easily accessible and have a garden. | Noted |
| 29 | Everyone has the right to exchange with some other tenant. | Noted |
| 30 | Don't understand the logic in this unless medical or extreme circumstances. | Noted |
| 31 | It should remain the same | Noted |
| 32 | People with children is better to get more points than people with bigger children. | Noted |
| 33 | It should be the same points across the board except exceptional circumstances | Noted |
| 34 | In todays housing climate tenants should just be happy they have a roof over their heads and if they want to move wait on the exchange list. | Noted |

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| 35 | Agree tenants with children should receive more point but not other tenants. | Noted |
| 36 | For health problems or have children as who wants to carry pram up and down stairs please have more kids to bring down the stairs at the same it very dangerous. | Noted |
| 37 | I think people with young children should not be housed in a flat as they need to be able to have a garden to play in. Very important for the safety of children. | Noted |
| 38 | I think only moving from one to another on medical, disability or proper needs. | Noted |
| 39 | Children should have access to a garden or park and parents / tenants have somewhere to hang washing. | Noted |
| 40 | People are looking for houses for all sorts reasons. They have a roof over their heads. If they're not overcrowded why should they get that many points. When you want people to change there areas because they cant get a house. | Noted |
| 41 | I would like to move from my flat as I am not as fit as I was and a smaller house or cottage type would do me and my needs. | Noted |
| 42 | This is pandering to 1st world problems. Unless there is an identified need for a different house type, i.e. medical, then having an upper with a shared stairway is not a reason for awarding priority. | Noted |
| 43 | If the cant go up and down the stairs due to illness | Noted |
| 44 | Only if they are pensioners with stairs or not good. | Applicants can apply for Health & Housing points if they have difficulty with stairs. |
| 45 | If priority is given to make existing tenants from tenement property, my concern would be the possibility that tenement property will be used only to rehouse vulnerable and/or homeless applicants. | Noted |
| 46 | I understand people with kids or medical conditions being awarded more points if stairways become an issue. | Noted |
| 47 | Equality five points for everyone wanting a transfer from a tenemental flat or flat to another type of property. | Noted |
| 48 | Surely this should apply more needily to the elderly and infirm who need more accessible housing. | Noted |
| 49 | I grew up in these - as did note of my family - why is it now a problem | Noted |
| 50 | If they have small children of ill health. | Noted |
| 51 | May need a pensioner to move to lower ground floor for obvious reasons. | Noted |

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| 52 | Additional points should be available to tenants who have a medical requirement to move. | Noted |
| 53 | You shouldn't be penalised for not having children | Noted |
| 54 | Living in flats with young children is hard with storing and entering/leaving property with buggy. Also I feel gardens/outdoor space is important for young children. | Noted |
| 55 | Difficult with young children when stairs are involved. | Noted |
| 56 | If the right reasons and priority to the right people. | |
| 57 | I disagree because I think they should have thought about moving before having children if they couldn't handle a flat or refused offer from council if they had a child under 5 before hand, although I would like to think that the council wouldn't offer such properties in the first place, so I think all said tenants in a flat should all get some points. | Noted |
| 58 | Everyone should receive same points. | Noted |
| 59 | This should only happen if there are health issues. In an ideal world with an excess of available properties, this would be fine but there are too many people on the waiting list | Noted |
| 60 | This does not seem like a priority situation in most cases | Noted |
| 61 | N/A | Noted |
| 62 | People who have stairway should not move unless they have a number of children or they have a disability that they cannot go down or up. | Noted |
| 63 | They shouldn't have excepted the flat if they new they were going to stay so long in it | Noted |
| 64 | I think everyone should be awarded the same points though I don't see the need for people with children to receive more. | Noted |
| 65 | As long as the house is suitable then it should be ok to stay in a shared stairwell but it can be noisy living in a shared stairwell so I am not against it either. | Noted |
| 66 | People with children over 5 should be given same. Most times they have been there longest. It should be done on same type of list of first come, first served, depending on if property type is suitable | Noted |
| 67 | People with kids aged over 5 could have the same reason for needed to move. | Noted |
| 68 | If the tenant and family are of good character, if not, then should not be a priority | Noted |
| 69 | Depends on circumstances | Noted |

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| 70 | This rule should not just be awarded to applicants with children aged 5 or under. Why is the council singling out these brackets of parents? Should not it be awarded to every parent? This shows the government along with councils are a contradiction, buy not seeing or treating all and giving equal rights to every parent. | Noted |
| 71 | Not got any view | Noted |
| 72 | Although I would argue that the elderly, those with disabilities/mobility issues would benefit more from these points. | Noted |
| 73 | I think families should get more than 4 points. | Noted |
| 74 | Mums with small children and a pram to deal with, stairs are a problem. Who cleans the stairs? Depends on circumstances. | Noted |
| 75 | Flats may be an answer but there are more flats for exchange than any other properties? Not good, hard to get people living happily together in that situation. | Noted |
| 76 | N/A | Noted |
| 77 | I feel it should be children under 12 not 5 that would be awarded 4 points | Noted |
| 78 | I can appreciate the need for families wanting to move but again the system is considerably flawed, geared by society that doesn't take care of / consider single people or couples | Noted |
| 79 | Should all be treated equally and awarded equal points. | Noted |
| 80 | A flat with a stairway can be suitable but it depends on how many kids someone has like me. I have 3 and stay in a flat which is no longer suitable for us. | Noted |
| 81 | The children wont remain 5 years forever, again does it not go back to parents with young children wanting a front and back door with a garden? Some home owners live in flats with young children but cant afford to move. | Noted |
| 82 | A safe roof and a maintained property are priority unless disabled that should be enough. | Noted |
| 83 | Where are all theses tenants going to be housed given the rolling stock of houses? It means that probably all homeless would end up in a flat. If the tenants accepted a tenancy of a flat then they should stay there unless they are medically unfit. However I think that families with children under 5 should get extra points. | Noted |
| 84 | Not all tenants in my stairwell take their turn to sweep and mop stairs. | Noted |

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| 85 | Especially for people with children!! It can cause a lot of upset with neighbours if there's kids running around etc. but that's because there's not much insulation of noise in Council houses | Noted |
| 86 | I downsized to get away from this type of property. It did not suit our needs and was impossible to swap out of. | Noted |
| 87 | Living in a flat with a child aged up to 10 year-11 years of age is not a healthy environment for the child. Plus modern flats do not have drying areas | Noted |
| 88 | Don't understand why, by sharing a stairway, applicants should receive points. Sharing a stairway is not impeding housing needs, unless it is medical, or noisy neighbours | Noted |
| 89 | They are in a secure home, why award points? | Noted |
| 90 | Shared stairways can lead to disputes. | Noted |
| 91 | I think people with kids esp young parents just expect a house and don't like inconvenience of flats. | Noted |
| 92 | Depends on situation | Noted |
| 93 | Get the points sistem gone it dose not work. You can still put movers (transfers) in the same what as homeless just put transfer on some of the property you put online so they can't bid for a h as they are only for homeless people then the t is for people needing to move. Disabled people who are in very high need eg are in wheelchairs and can't walk ect should be able to bid for any property that comes up for let. | Noted |
| 94 | I don't see why you are awarding extra point to people who have chosen to have children when they already have a council property. | Noted |
| 95 | This should also include elderly tenants. | Noted |
| 96 | Everyone should have the same points. | Noted |
| 97 | Elderly people with restricted movement should have at least same points as those with children below school age. | Noted |
| 98 | Depends what their reason is. | Noted |
| 99 | A shared stairway quite a usual feature of housing? | Noted |
| 100 | Tenant should make decisions based on their own responsibilities before having children, not using them to progress to a desired property. | Noted |
| 101 | Agree council housed me in a flat with 3 small children two of which in a pram hard with stairs. | Noted |
| 102 | Sounds Fair | Noted |
| 103 | pensioners should live beside other pensioners | Noted |

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| 104 | at least they have a roof over there heads put in for an exchange if they cant live in stairs that should be taken into account. | Noted |
| 105 | What about older people who now need accommodation on one level? They should get same points. | Noted |
| 106 | Some tenants who don't have children under 5 may need to move due to health and mobility conditions e.g. they may need a ground floor property urgently it needs to be a case by case basis. | Health & Housing may award priority points for difficulty using stairs. |
| 107 | But having a young child should not necessarily accrue more points. People with poor mental health nay desperately need to leave due to anti-social behaviour from these areas. I have experienced this myself having had a heart attack as a result. | Noted |
| 108 | Elderly should be proposed also and people with physical problems. | |
| 109 | Why should people be victimised just because they don't have children | Noted |
| 110 | Health and safety reasons Young families should not be given tenemental flats. | Noted |
| 111 | The people concerned know which type of property the live in before they have children. Don't see why everyone with kids should have a garden. | Noted |
| 112 | Only if disabled | Noted |
| 113 | OAPs with mobility problems should also get 4 points. | Noted |
| 114 | I am not sure how another 3 points would make much difference. | Noted |
| 115 | I personally live in a flat with shared stairs and my children do get very nervous if there is a lot going on elsewhere in the stair | Noted |
| 116 | More points should be awarded and they should have preference. Not good taking babies and toddlers downstairs with prams etc. | Noted |
| 117 | Not great for parents with young kids on stairs with buggies | Noted |
| 118 | Only if in stairway above, one flight of stairs | Noted |
| 119 | More information should be given about transfers | Noted |
| 120 | Elderly should be included for equal points | Noted |
| 121 | If they took a flat then why more - it's a house and water and wind tight so NO they should not get extra points | Noted |
| 122 | Each case judged on explicit needs and merit. | Noted |
| 123 | Again, if tenants are relatively satisfied with their homes, they shall settle long term. Flat living can be detrimental to children's health | Noted |
| 124 | Elderly tenants with health problems should have an equal case. | |
| 125 | unsure | Noted |

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| 126 | If people are housed, then they should get there on exchange with exception of medical points/need | Noted |
| 127 | Depends on their needs | Noted |
| 128 | In exemption to medical mobility reasons | Noted |
| 129 | I find it unfair that people with children always come first, especially when they already have somewhere to live. | Noted |
| 130 | Think everyone who wishes to move from a stair/flat should be given a chance. Some don't have a choice as that is all there is. Don't just think that young kids should get it, I think the older generation should be a priority. Living in a flat can take away their independence, again it just depends. They should be given the choice also people who can't manage the stairs and that can be all ages | Noted |
| 131 | Underline that being moved means or recommends no more than 3 children per household | Noted |
| 132 | Young children should have access to a garden | Noted |
| 133 | I have terminal lung cancer and live on third floor tenement. I have to climb 30 stairs to my flat, still waiting on lower flat | Health & Housing may award priority points for difficulty using stairs. |
| 134 | Some Mums have prams and can't get up the stairs with them | Noted |
| 135 | What would then happen to those properties? Demolish and rebuild? sell open market? Many non council occupants live in these types of premises. Reasons - Health & safety notice cleaning of stairs use of stairways accessibility problems other neighbours gardens or none cars, bikes etc. cold and draughty washing and laundry and access to greens/lines dogs age of premises prams disability equipment smoking and litter | Noted |

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| 136 | I don't think this should be a problem even in private housing you have to share stairways. | Noted |
| 137 | They should be thankful. | Noted |
| 138 | It should be the same points with or without children | It is felt that the impact of a shared stairway is greater on children aged 5 or under. |
| 139 | I feel that all tenants have equal points. Why be penalised for not having child. | Noted |
| 140 | Good move scum moves in residents have no say in this matter. Some people have histories known to locals. | Noted |
| 141 | This would only apply for medical needs, not on a whim or in cases where there's a baby on a top floor bumping a pram upstairs several times a day is not good | Noted |
| 142 | Children obviously mature and are more capable of coping with stairs. Adults obviously age and perhaps become less capable. | Noted |
| 143 | I have only had one point - am over 10 years and they are going to get 4 points for nothing. They have let me down time and time again I am sorry to say. | Noted |
| 144 | Strongly agree to points being awarded to tenants with children under 5. Strongly disagree to all other tenants - a flat is a more than suitable option for people with no physical disabilities | Noted |
| 145 | Why should they get extra points, they have a house they can try and exchange | Noted |
| 146 | I agree that those with children should be awarded extra points, but childless people who have no need other than simply wanting to move should not be awarded extra points. | Noted |
| 147 | Hopefully this would apply to mature etc tenants as well | It would apply to all existing tenants who live on a shared stairway. |
| 148 | Additional points should be awarded for each small child. It is more difficult to move additional children safely to and from their home. H&S risk. | Noted |
| 149 | I feel that people with medical reasons or elderly should also be awarded 5 points. Or if there is an anti social reason with in the stair way/other flats. Anyone else should not be awarded points. | Noted |
| 150 | If people need a new property that is bigger and fits their needs or need to downsize ia the only reason they would need to move. | Noted |

Q9. Please add your comments, views or concerns on any of the allocations areas that have not been covered by our Survey. All of your comments will be discussed and form part of the allocations review. You can also leave your contact details if you would like a copy of the survey findings or a response to a comment you have raised. This survey can also be made available in other languages/formats upon request.

| | Comments | Theme |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | I would also recommend the council to approach tenants who are in bungalows/ground floor flats to ask if they really need it. I currently live in a bungalow but I don't need a bungalow and I know a few people who are disabled/elderly that need a bungalow. I would be happy for the council to approach me offering a transfer to an upstairs/downstairs house. | Tenancies |
| 2 | When a tenant gets a property and has little or no income more support should be given. Give the details for local charities, give the option for the previous tenant to agree to leave flooring. | Tenancies |
| 3 | Survey blank | |
| 4 | People with young children should not be offered a house in a notoriously rough area. | Allocations |
| 5 | Survey Blank | |
| 6 | I think it would be good to see points (or more if already in place) awarded to transfer applicants wishing to downsize thus freeing up larger houses for families. | Downsizing |
| 7 | I strongly agree that the allocations policy should be reviewed and changes made, I am a 23 year old women sharing a room with my 17 year old brother, it is not ok. *****@hotmail.com | Overcrowding |

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|----|---|----------------------------|
| 8 | <p>East Lothian Council Allocations Policy- Consultation Draft Nov 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overall <input type="checkbox"/> oChanges from previous policy- It's not clear for anyone reading the document what the key changes are or why they're being proposed? Some explanatory narrative would be helpful – for consultation and applicants? Primarily re which issues arise from deferred and phased implementation of the Hg Sc Act 2014 and which from general policy review? oScope oThere are references in Appendix 2- Other Policies & Strategies to separate policies covering Assignment, Subletting and Succession. Presumably changes arising from 2014 Act implementation on these issues will be addressed by separate review and updating of those policies. However, it's not clear how/ where the Council plan to outline policy in relation to granting of joint tenancies and use of different tenancy agreements, particularly short tenancies? oAlso, at present a common model secure tenancy agreement is in use by all RSLs in East Lothian, including the Council, and hopefully such partnering initiatives can continue under new Policy? •3.3- Reasonable Preference <input type="checkbox"/> oSee comments below at 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) •3.4 Unmet Housing Need <input type="checkbox"/> oSee comments below at 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) •3.5- Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> oIt may be helpful to applicants to offer some further explanation/ definition of 'settled accommodation', if this is not covered elsewhere in this or other related policies? •3.7- Circumstances not considered <input type="checkbox"/> oThe inserted 'Note' at the end of this section refers applicants to Section 4.9 for further information. This should be Section 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership). Presumably numbering has changed due to redrafting? •4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) <input type="checkbox"/> oThis section confirms that home ownership can be taken into account, however it does not offer any insight into how the Council will do so? It appears implied that this will be considered in determining 'unmet housing need' as part of determining 'Reasonable Preference' under Section 3.3- Reasonable Preference? If so, it would be better | |
| 9 | I believe applicants must be more vigorously investigated. | Applications |
| 10 | Disagree that a person should have to have every property type on their housing application when in temporary/emergency accommodation as its not always suitable, especially if applicant is paying rent etc., in full from their working wage, there should be some choice at least. | Homelessness, Applications |

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| 11 | <p>I have studied your housing applications policy, and the proposed changes. Very complicated system for example it is not easy to understand where an applicant might stand in the sustainability category.</p> <p>Whilst all other sections are objectively calculated - the sustainable communities section is subjective on the part of council officers.</p> <p>The Group plus Points system seems to be weighted unfairly in some instances. For example 40 points for not paying you mortgage and needing a new home - as opposed to 6 points for medical problems.</p> <p>There is no reference to the length of time that someone has lived in East Lothian.</p> <p>An able bodied working person is treated the same as a disabled person on benefits.</p> <p>The general needs group is far to large. Homeowners, homeless and people with health problems are all in this group.</p> <p>Health points - it is difficult to gain any points for health, and you need extensive evidence.</p> <p>Many applicants are not in need of social housing. Homeowners are still able to put their names on the list.</p> <p>Applicants income is not taken into account - some people can afford to get private rented accommodation or buy a property.</p> <p>Surely social housing is intended for those with greatest need.</p> | |
| 12 | <p>I have been a homeless person with 5 children and it is the worst anyone has to go through. This needs to be addressed not just here but he whole country.</p> | Homelessness |
| 13 | <p>I always think that the harder you apply yourself - work, pay taxes, keep trying hard, the further down the application list you go. This might go a smidgen to straightening out some inequalities.</p> | Personal |
| 14 | <p>We are living in a private property with a high rent (for us, because we are pensioners) and look forward to moving to a council property.</p> | |
| 15 | <p>Really don't understand in full the procedure of housing. Witnessed people getting council properties right away (with and without kids) and how people who are single parents and renting flats from private landlords for years getting nowhere and no help from Council.</p> | |
| 16 | <p>Been in temp house for several years. I was originally told it would take a maximum of 18 months to find me a permanent property.</p> | Homelessness |
| 17 | <p>I think families with shared custody of children should be given the same treatment as families whose homes are classed as over crowded ie.e a family who has a child full time but also gets their two other children every week/weekend have to share a two bedroomed flat.</p> | Overcrowding |
| 18 | <p>Since I first put in my application for a house, which was some time ago, my points have never changed or been offered anything. Yet I know people that have had three houses in a short space of time. Yet am in my 30 and still with parents.</p> | Applications |

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| 19 | Having read your form I think your questions are fair to everyone concerned. | |
| 20 | The Council needs to take into account people's circumstances when the points system I am aware some people need more than me but seems the good, hard working people looking to progress there life get overlooked. | Applications |
| 21 | ELC do not support low income families who do work the option is always private rent. Hence low income being an issue. Having experienced the benefits system due to maternity, I have never been so disappointed and stressed in a situation with just additional stress added by council with unreasonable alternatives of private rent. Knowing people have been on housing list with less priority very little time. | Affordability |
| 22 | Living with daughter and her family. | |
| 23 | Council need to build more houses too many private houses being built. The new ones in Dunbar are fantastic but not enough built. With the constant hikes in rent it should be put into building rather than new bathrooms, kitchens etc. when they are perfectly functional. Except on cases of disability. | Affordability |
| 24 | I don't think over-crowding of children is given enough priority. Also it makes zero sense to make people in under-occupied properties meet criteria to transfer to smaller properties. You want them to move on! I don't get why transfers to a similar size house have to meet criteria anyway, what difference does it make where they live? They are occupying a unit anyway, why not one that suits them better? This is not really an allocations matter and you probably can't do it under the legislation, but I don't think people should be allowed to under-occupy for ever. I think once they have been doing so for a year, they should have to look to move, maybe through choice based letting. I know it's hard, but I don't think maintaining people in homes they don't need should be given priority over properly housing children who are overcrowded or homeless. Ideally you wouldn't but given the shortage of housing I think it should be looked at. I'm not saying they should be pushed out of their communities, but I do think they should have priority for smaller housing, and have some element of compulsion to go there. I'm not sure about inheriting tenancies either. | Overcrowding |
| 25 | This survey form was sent back blank. | |
| 26 | The allocations policy is very unfair in my opinion. People with 2 children of the same sex are regularly allocated 3 bedroom houses whereas I have 4 children in a really small 3 bedroom house but am being told I am not overcrowded when clearly I am. | Overcrowding |
| 27 | I am stuck in a 2 bedroom 3rd floor with a 5 year old and an autistic 4 year old. It's a private let for which we get housing benefit - myself and my children are risking our lives on a daily basis up and down these stairs. | Overcrowding |
| 28 | Every town in East Lothian and Villages are changing. There is thousands of houses being built the prices are from around £200,000 to £450, 000 the council should be building more rented council house for local families that cant afford a mortgage. It should be half affordable rents and half house to buy. | Affordability |

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| 29 | I understand that everyone's individual circumstances are different but approx. 30 years on the waiting list is a little excessive. Would be good to hear why there is no property available instead of having to complete the same forms over and over again yearly to keep your name on the list. | Applications |
| 30 | I am sorry but due to my age 88 years not able to fill out forms now. | |
| 31 | In homeless accommodation | |
| 32 | I am an owner of a first floor ex council flat. I have my name down for sheltered housing in the event that I am unable to cope with the stairs to access my flat. | Applications |
| 33 | With the demand from private developers for land, the Council is in a strong position to insist on deals which are beneficial to the taxpayer. Use this strong bargaining position to build more houses for local authority rent. | Affordability |
| 34 | Applied to downsize about 11/2 years ago to a 1/2 bedroom bungalow Tranent/Macmerry from a 3 bed family house but seem to notice Council giving younger families bungalows rather than older residents who need this type of housing more. | Applications |
| 35 | Council should take more responsibility and find a quicker system that works for homeless specially under medical grounds and have some more understanding of different medical - Mental Health. | Homelessness |
| 36 | I have been on the Council list for years and have not had one offer for a house as such had to rent private after becoming homeless. I disagree that other people be given houses from people that are drug users and people coming into this country and from people that sell their house and are given council house after only a couple of weeks. I had to sell my house and was told then I had no right to a council house. | Homelessness, Applications |
| 37 | I don't have a lot of knowledge on mainstream housing or how it works | |
| 38 | With reference to the section on 'home ownership', I would like to make an additional comment based on my personal circumstances as I think my situation will be similar to others. I am a house owner, but am elderly (72 years old) and finding it very difficult to maintain the property and support myself on my pension. It would be better for me if I could sell my home, move into social housing designed for the elderly and use the proceeds to pay bills and support myself and keep warm. | Home Ownership |
| 39 | Have applied for sheltered housing from 2 bed to one bedroom | Applications |
| 40 | There should be meeting with person on waiting list every say 2 years to update them on any changes and how they stand on the waiting list. | Applications |

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| 41 | I live alone, my ex husband comes down everyday as I can't dress myself very well, he takes me shopping as cant walk very far or can't lift heavy things. He cooks and hangs washing out, he has his own static caravan if you want any more information please let me know. | Personal |
| 42 | Apologies for handwriting this is due to my arthritis (osteo) | |
| 43 | I just want to remind you that I have been on the Council list 20 years+ and have not agreed with how people have gone from owning their home to council. I know many of them have told lies to get council property. | Applications |
| 44 | Council needs to consider single people as cant afford to buy have no chance if ordinary working person. | Affordability |
| 45 | As I am an older member of the town I would like to see more bungalows getting built. My husband and I have been on the list for nearly 2 years waiting for a place without stairs. | Applications |
| 46 | I have lived in this council house since 1964 54 years since it was built. | Personal |
| 47 | Also think applicants who want to downsize should be given more points. As there are lots of applicants in 2 bedroom properties and these properties can be allocated to families. | Downsizing |
| 48 | What about council tenants that have been in council house for years and you stopped right to buy. I want buy mine, but just saying, yes for new council tenants just after it stopped yes. | Personal |
| 49 | The points system is no good to ordinary working people like me. Because I am never likely to get a council house. The system seems to be more geared to single parents or those on benefits. People like me who grew up, lived and worked in the area feel let down by this points system. My parents put their name on the council list when they married and worked their way up the list until it was their turn - No Points. | Applications |
| 50 | It is my opinion that some people in homeless situation, are encouraged into private renting (albeit with financial support) but once in private rented property are no longer considered in need of social housing. I think this is extremely unfair and from personal experience although my rent is always paid this doesn't always mean I have sufficient money to live on therefore my need still remains. Yes we are in home but our quality of life may be poor and our stress levels high with financial worries. | Homelessness |
| 51 | I think the council should look at a tenants record i.e. paying rent and council tax and keeping property and garden in good state of repair when allocating transfers. To be offered properties in a terrible state and be expected to try and decorate/repair to a decent habitable standard when leaving a larger/smaller property is not really fair. I was happy to downside from 3 bedrooms (which I thought the council were in desperate need of) to a 2 but the state of the 2 properties offered was ridiculous. Therefore I was taken off the transfer list. ELC get your act together please. | Downsizing |

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| 52 | I have been a resident of North Berwick for over 50 years and I do think its abysmal that people from far and wide seem to get any free properties on the list before local residents. | Applications, Allocations |
| 53 | I strongly feel that applicants current housing conditions should be inspected to determine how urgent their application is and I think there should be a much firmer line taken with tenants who neglect their property. New properties should only be allocated to: 1. Applicants who are already council tenants and have a good track record of paying their rent and keeping their property in good condition. 2. Applicants who are in employment and have been for a minimum of 6 months or more. I have also thought it worthwhile to provide a help and advice visitor who can check on new tenants and advise on things like fixings for curtains and blinds and general upkeep of the property. | Tenancies |
| 54 | In my opinion there is not enough effort put into housing plans for council houses to get built. You should be taken under consideration when applying for council house. Working in area and living in the same are. That will help local businesses as well. | Applications |
| 55 | I think east Lothian council are a good council and be fortunate to have one of their properties. I stay in a ground floor flat (stair) (4 flats) and I would like to move to a more suitable area to stay. Sheltered housing, smaller house or cottage type. But I've stayed in Musselburgh for all my life and would like a person from council to assist me in getting away from this house. I find it to big I am Severely disabled. | Applications |
| 56 | Older, frail, isolated applicants who wish to be considered for sheltered housing is a growing client group. It will only get worse and the allocations policy as it is proposed, does not appear to be offering a long term solution to this issue. | Applications |
| 57 | Disappointed that "waiting time" has not been introduced. I have been an applicant since 2004 but have no points awarded. | Applications |
| 58 | I feel the current allocation system is all wrong and is in need of a complete overhaul. | Allocations |
| 59 | Having lost a dear friend partly due to the stress of an antisocial council tenants I feel the council needs a more proactive outlook to good tenants rather than the bad ones who seem to be prioritised. | Allocations |
| 60 | very little consideration for disabled or elderly applicants I feel | Applications |
| 61 | I am completing this on behalf of my mother who is a council tenant in mid Lothian and seeking sheltered housing in East Lothian to address her medical and social needs. | Personal |
| 62 | Also have application for bigger property. | Overcrowding |

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| 63 | Couples without children are unfairly treated. Priority is always given to families which is wrong in my opinion. Also immigrant coming to UK should not be treated as homeless and get priority as they have actually made themselves homeless by coming to the UK in the first place. I have been employed for 40 years and still find myself behind these people in the waiting list. | Allocations |
| 64 | All cases should be decided on their individual circumstances. | |
| 65 | When waiting for housing you don't want all your choices/opinions taken from you. (you have the right to have some control over your life and expectations !! | Personal |
| 66 | Sometimes people who pay full rent and look after their property well and value their tenancy are penalised or don't have choices. The other side if we did not have mortgage to rent scheme we would likely have been homeless with our children so we did value the outcome. | Homelessness |
| 67 | People with ASBOS shouldn't get rehoused of there choice Sharing room with kids should be a younger age. | Overcrowding |
| 68 | I like my council house, I find the rent fair and the council try to be aware of tenants needs, again for example the need for lower flat or bungalows no stairs wet room etc all these needs can be addressed by the council and tenants feel anxious moving into old age. | Allocations |
| 69 | I think the council need to be telling tenants in 3/4/5 bedroom houses, that do not need them, to move to 2 or 1 bedroom houses. It might be a shame, but it is not their house, they only rent it. The need for big houses is far too great to have single people or couples without kids living in them. I can name 5 of the top of my head in Ormiston alone while large families are stuck in 2 bedroom houses. | Downsizing |
| 70 | Most of the questions are regarding buying houses and whether the applicant has priority. I think each question can be answered very differently determining on the individuals circumstances and should be handled as such. If there is rules/policies for people being homeless they have to be taken case by case otherwise people will take advantage and others will lose out through no fault of there own. It should be noted, I think ELC is one of the best local authorities/housing associations. | Applications |
| 71 | Would like to move closer to my family in Dunbar | Personal |
| 72 | People should be given incentives to down size - how many people are (under crowded). Please update me | Downsizing |
| 73 | There is an obvious need for more council houses to be built as can be seen by your own figures. Too many new builds are being built with no thought given to the many people who will never be in a position to buy, for various reasons. I'm sure the money the council pays out to help with private let rents could be put to better use. The rents these landlords charge is disgusting and whatever rules you make their tenants will always be at the mercy of their landlords | Affordability |

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| 74 | I am prepared to discuss the difficulties and issues relating to homelessness, poverty and the shortage of social housing with members of the Council or Social Work if requested | Personal |
| 75 | Happy living in rented accommodation | Personal |
| 76 | I have been on the housing list for 10 years and feel I will never get a house as I always have 10 points when the letter comes back | Applications |
| 77 | I am 60 years of age and have never been offered a council house. I think it's a wee bit unfair | Applications |
| 78 | I believe that overcrowding and length of time on waiting list should have priority over those who get pregnant or get houses because social services get involved and it seems that drug addicts and drunks get priority over normal people | Allocations |
| 79 | the client remarked on front page that she is blind and could not complete the survey | Personal |
| 80 | After 2 strokes, I have been taking dizzy spells, lost my drivers licence and told I had to move out of my tied house. I had to take private let. I don't enjoy where I am but it is a roof but my health I feel is affected by this | Personal |
| 81 | My only comment is that, despite being stupid, I found some of the questions unclear. Consequently I would not be surprised if the return of the questionnaire was limited | Personal |
| 82 | These people that come into our county shouldn't just walk into new houses and every where in the house put there by us. And our people if that are homeless no fault of there won they are all over the place till a house comes up for them when people just come over here walks into a new home with nothing to pay for our family cant get anything. | Allocations |
| 83 | Thank you for this survey and good luck for a great reply | Personal |
| 84 | It is still the case that a single person is on allowed a 1 bedroom property. Ideally I would like a 2 bedroom house but allocations policy at the moment does not allow this. I would like a response to this question and a copy of survey findings. | Applications |
| 85 | I want my details to be kept out of the discussion/review about it as I am a victim of domestic abuse and I moved to East Lothian to protect my child and to be safe but feel free to use my comments. | Personal |
| 86 | Private accommodation that is full of dampness and I cant have my 2 girls to stay my walls are all black with mould and dampness. | Tenancies |
| 87 | Tenants in a two bedroom house should be allowed to exchange or transfer to a two bedroom house and not asked to downsize to a one bedroom if they are on there own it would keep family together. | Downsizing |
| 88 | I've been in temporary accommodation for over 2 years. Was also in my last temp a year and 2 days. | Homelessness |
| 89 | This form was sent back blank | |

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| 90 | Medical points need to be assessed and considered in a faster way. These situations are normally urgent and council takes too long to deal with cases where tenant is in unsuitable accommodation and detrimental to their health as I have experienced | Applications |
| 91 | Applicant did not complete the survey at all. Returned empty survey | |
| 92 | What about people in tied houses? We have lived and worked in East Lothian all our lives but due to having a tied house we are not eligible for a council house. Now we are approaching retirement, we are worrying about where we will live and how we will be able to afford it | Applications |
| 93 | We have been council tenants since 1971 (forty seven years) and feel joint tenancy should be the normal practice when married couples take tenancy of council property. Tenants (where health issues are not a concern) should be encouraged by the council to keep their gardens and driveways etc. reasonably clean and tidy The council should also be able to hold shop owners responsible for keeping their property or properties up to a certain standard of appearance and safety | Tenancies |
| 94 | If a potential tenant has no interest in keeping a garden then they shouldn't get one. | Tenancies |
| 95 | I think people who have 3/4 bedroom houses and only two people in them should give up them for families to move into. | Downsizing |
| 96 | I am a council tenant and very happy with the house I was given. I have made it a lovely home and with the help of the council I can't complain. If anything is wrong I only have to call the council and they help fix a problem "within reason". The general public think it is their right to a house regardless. | Personal |
| 97 | Would like to know why we are using good available ground to build 4/5 & 6 bedroom houses? how many people will come off the housing list with these? I know it is hard for councils to build more houses but once the land is gone!? can middle class working families be able to buy these homes? with land so hard to find why are we using so much of it on big houses (some sitting in their own ground)!? | Allocations |
| 98 | N/A | |
| 99 | I am currently staying in a ground floor flat, a private rent. I suffer from anxiety, epilepsy, arthritis,. I don't know where I stand for points | Personal, Applications |

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| 100 | I've been on the housing list since I was 16. I'm now 36 and no closer to obtaining a council property. I've lost count of the number of years I've been stuck on "8 points". The system is fundamentally flawed. As stated before I think the Scottish Government/Councils need to stop allowing the development of 4/5/6 bedroom homes and start building council homes to meet the needs of people on the lengthy waiting list. I'd be happy to see flats built if they had a visually pleasant outlook. The system is geared towards the social norm of families but statistics show there are more singles/and couples than ever before who are getting no support to get on the property ladder/council home. Personally I'd like to see an additional survey sent to this demographic and collect their views as the majority of this form is not relevant to me. Like many I'm still at home with very understanding parents as I either can't afford renting or can justify what private landlords are charging. | Affordability |
| 101 | Homeless after having property 20 years. House went to my ex partner as we had separated and now having to stay with my mother through mental health. | Homelessness |
| 102 | Moving tenants who are due to have the full re-wire, kitchen & bathroom upgrade, especially if one of the joint tenants is disabled, i.e. heart condition and asthma | Tenancies |
| 103 | Just like to make a point here when a landlord gives the tenant notice to quit a property I feel the council don't help the situation where they make these tenants stay over the notice to quit date especially when people have medical issues what you done to us in December 2017 you made us stay over that date and put us in a totally disgusting building at civic square in Tranent. My partner had fibromyalgia and your housing officer at Dunbar put us there we were threatened by neighbours next door but I will be writing a letter to head office separately once I have been to citizens advice for the stress you put us through | Homelessness |
| 104 | I feel at the moment the points system is very poor we have been on the transfer list for a year and a half with no offer of a bigger property. I also have children who are over the age that they can no longer share a room. A review of the points would be a great help to many. | Overcrowding, Applications |
| 105 | Don't think if fair that people who live out with East Lothian should be given a council house before EL residents. Think it unfair that applicants that have been on the housing list for years aren't offered a house but a person out with EL is. | Applications |
| 106 | I stay in a Homes for Life property which I think is classed as private but not sure. I'm on ELC list to be near sick family and family to help me as well. | Personal |
| 107 | East Lothian Council need to build more 1 & 2 bedroom affordable houses instead of Cala etc at 300k - 500k. Priority has to be given to EL residents (or should) | Affordability |
| 108 | Three years ago I was homeless and felt when I was offered my house that there was no choice. | Homelessness |

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| 109 | I have applied for sheltered housing for mobility reasons. My health stops me from using the bus services and have to travel by taxi - which is expensive or ask friends for help. | Personal |
| 110 | I am on the list for a smaller house as time goes on this may be too much for me especially with such a large back & front garden, but at the moment I am coping. | Applications, Downsizing |
| 111 | Not covered - applicants in private/housing associations who may be finding rent unaffordable. HM Forces members who need housing. Applicants who own property but due to particular circumstances, split, leaving either one or both homeless, as one cannot afford mortgage and rent on another property. | Applications, Affordability |
| 112 | I am trying to get into sheltered housing my name has been in for 10 years my health was changed I was told I have Parkinson's six months ago. I also have a disability I have put in three letters I got six points for isolation my health is not good I am waiting for an occupational therapist to come and give me an assessment. Its a sham that a lot of gardens have been left as dumping grounds for cars, old sofas etc. | Tenancies, Applications |
| 113 | This form was sent in blank | |
| 114 | Take firmer action when antisocial behaviour and a blatant disregard for respectful harmony is breached and reported. | Tenancies |
| 115 | Please after all the bother in Haddington High Street with antisocial behaviour, please do not let rowdy people to get housing overlooking the High Street. Haddington is a great place to stay, lets keep it that way. | Tenancies |
| 116 | After being on the housing list for 20 years will there ever be a time I will be offered a house? I currently own my own house. *****@gmail.com | Home Ownership, Applications |
| 117 | I have been in temporary accommodation for a few months and now I am in my permanent house. I am lucky and grateful to get my own home this quickly especially with two small children. | Home Ownership, Allocations |
| 118 | I think people with 1 child should not be allowed to exchange to a 3 bedroom. Also people with same sex kids & 2 under 10 should be made to share. People can't have bigger houses because people are being allowed to move to bigger property's with 1 child or maybe planning another. Also people in houses too big for their needs should be made to move. I have 2 boys sharing plus stepson at weekends which makes 3 in one room and I'm sick of seeing people with 1 child or 2 kids under 5 getting larger houses or people on their own in 2-3-4 bed houses. | Overcrowding |
| 119 | Many of our British homeless were once in paid jobs where taxes are paid into the system before circumstances caused their downfall. Those people should be given priority over immigrants coming here who have never paid into our system. Put British born people first - they deserve our support. | Homelessness |
| 120 | Living in homeless accommodation | |

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| 121 | Having been on the housing list for many years and never been offered a house it is very annoying over the years to see an abundance of people from many areas/places/countries getting houses. Also all the new houses being build in East Lothian it is not only young couples, single parents etc. that need these houses it is also normal couples, single people and people who have been in these areas to be offered houses. We should have the same rights as the younger people!! But we just seem to be forgotten about because we have a private rent which is more expensive ! | Allocations, Affordability |
| 122 | It was not easy to strongly agree or disagree to the questions with so many varied reasons and circumstances to consider in individual cases. No one wants to have antisocial neighbours yet some people don't change if not given equal fair and considered placements in housing when necessary. | Allocations |
| 123 | Hope u can make change because the way things are it is just not working | Allocations |
| 124 | I also feel that males should be treated equally in the housing queue. It is quite apparent that females are given houses far more often males. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES! | Allocations |
| 125 | I experienced paranormal activity in my flat. | Personal |
| 126 | Housing in ELC is a joke and doesn't help important people in need. | Personal |
| 127 | 1, why do drug addicts get placed in brand new houses? 2, who do they get put in a stair (tenemental) that consists of decant people. Who have to put up with addicts friends and dealers visiting and eventually forcing decent tenants to move house. These people will never change and only bring decent tenants down. 3, Why is the council filling the main street into Musselburgh with these people, I am talking about North High Street. | Tenancies |
| 128 | This form was sent back blank | |
| 129 | This survey will be very helpful to hear tenants views and to help you how to best deal with applications. | |
| 130 | Allocation should be considered for other UK residents who are legal residents such as students in higher Institutions. | Allocations |
| 131 | I have lived here for 54 years and would not like to be moved elsewhere | |
| 132 | I feel that anyone who is evicted because of anti-social behaviour should not be re-housed as they will most likely cause the same problem elsewhere. I also feel very strongly about part time parents being allocated properties because they have their children on a part time basis there are people who take advantage of this and there have been people waiting on housing for years/same applies to overcrowding! | Tenancies, Allocations |
| 133 | I think that bathrooms should be updated a shower should be standard especially for older tenants who have disabilities. | |
| 134 | I would like to be contacted on what happens with this information, after been discussed. | |

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| 135 | One area I do have concerns over is that of assisted homes for the elderly. I strongly believe these houses should never be allocated to able bodied working people who do not require "pull cord" Community Care System. The elderly folks form a small community whereas working people are out all day. Car parking in small complex becomes a problem as in many cases they have 2 cars. The elderly look out for one another so please consider them when allocating these houses. | Allocations |
| 136 | I am 85 years old and have filled this form in to the best of my ability, I live alone and am housebound and very happy with my accommodation hope I have been a help. | |
| 137 | Regarding home ownership It was decided 2 1/2 years ago that our property was un-adaptable due to family members disability we are still waiting to be rehoused in a bungalow adapted for this persons needs in the area we have chosen. We feel this long wait is detrimental to the persons health | Allocations |
| 138 | I only have 4 points with your council, so I have recently applied to Bield who have awarded me 51 points. I feel that my husband who was in the royal navy for 22 years meant that we had to move house regularly 1 surely worth points 2, I am not 83 year old widow 3, I have 2 sons living in the Lothian regions 4 I have medical issues also and I am amazed I was only awarded 4 points I need to be near my family. | Personal, Applications |
| 139 | Need more council houses | |
| 140 | I am 73/74 in feb, wife dying with cancer would like to return to Port Seton or surrounding area where one belongs fisherrow, Haddington | Personal, Applications |
| 141 | I hope after this survey there will be a change | |
| 142 | I stay in a street that the council have let a family put steel roller shutters on the face of the house, like front/back door and window this cant be safe practice surely. | Tenancies |
| 143 | I think that the system is fair overall. I have been a council tenant for 35 years and have had excellent service, call outs etc. Especially when my husband was diagnosed with MS, we moved from Edinburgh to Aberlady, every need was met for him, and I am most great full for that. | Personal, Allocations |
| 144 | People live in a want everything now in this, and others claim try's and think its there right to get it but a large no. of them are work shy make them to do something like clean up litter before they get their dole money, no show no pay. Who would have thought in this day and age that people use food banks, there has to be a good shake up of the system. | Personal |
| 145 | I am a pensioners with a heart ailment. My stair is full off screaming out of their faces drug taking tenants who don't care about other decent folk. | Tenancies |
| 146 | In for an exchange to a smaller property (house) to stay close to family as they are dependant on myself & myself dependant on them. Property type due to my age 63years and preference. | Downsizing |

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| 147 | I had to purchase a property when I got married as was not offered council house. I remain on list in case circumstances change in the future. | Applications |
| 148 | Keep the rent increase to no more than inflation linked indices | |
| 149 | The trouble with making hard and fast rules is that some needy people can be unintentionally penalised. The complexity of their situations may not have been envisioned when the rules were drawn up. Some flexibility should be allowed to housing officers so that they can use their discretion in exceptional cases. | Applications, Allocations |
| 150 | Please allow people with mental disabilities considerably more leniency when rehousing & more points. I am very disappointed with the system, I feel clarity is NOT starting at home but with those who come from abroad!! They majority of people I know feel the same and very let down by the system. | Allocations |
| 151 | Please see enclosed letter. Please note no letter was attached to the form | |
| 152 | Mental health needs, you haven't mentions these tenants. Sheltered accommodation is getting less no suggestion about people who have severe mental problems have been spoken about at length. This survey excluded housing or any kind of support for people with mental health problems. We need a register of people who are old/live on their own. | Applications |
| 153 | I'm not agreeing to any changes (and the wording is appalling) | |
| 154 | Bought council house I live in back in 1983. It is 4 apartment and too big for just one person | |
| 155 | I think it is a joke that I have been waiting over a year for a house. Still no offers | Personal |
| 156 | I'm waiting to hear about a small house as I am 78 years old | Downsizing |
| 157 | Temporary Accommodation | |
| 158 | Consideration she be give to length of time on the waiting list for social housing and local connection. Too many people moving in from outwith the area. Losing the 'community' system of support. | Personal, Allocations |
| 159 | Have been on the council list for 50 years, still only 4 points. Doesn't seem quite right | Personal, Applications |
| 160 | no comment | |
| 161 | I have had to fill in this form as my husband has severe dementia. | Personal |
| 162 | Total waste of time filling in this 'consultation' as the council does what it decides to do anyway and pay no attention whatsoever to consultation or indeed to anything other that what it wants to do | |
| 163 | I think its unreasonable the amount of time I have been waiting for a transfer all because they took away waiting points and I am still no further forward and been waiting since 2014. | Personal, Applications |
| 164 | This survey was sent back blank | |

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| 165 | Still not informed about points for sheltered housing | |
| 166 | Have no strong feelings about allocation. Leave it to the Pros | |
| 167 | I am 85 years old | Personal |
| 168 | Feel council should move to ELHA way of offering houses - to bid, then if they have sufficient amount of points they can be offered a house. Then the people who are desperate for a new house/swap will be constantly looking and may receive a better chance than someone who doesn't really need a new house but is given another one | Allocations |
| 169 | It is my understanding that East Lothian do not have enough homes for people, it would be a good idea to look into this and come up with a solution! I have been trying to move nearer my daughter for almost 2 years. I live in Kent, England. Rarely any properties seem to come on the leaflet, i.e. Home choice, after all I can only bid for something that is suitable, one bed property | Personal, Allocations |
| 170 | I believe if you buy your council house you should not receive another. The sale of the first one should go towards buying another instead of council rehousing | Allocations |
| 171 | In this day and age it is very difficult to meet the needs of the people, but I do think disabled and homeless and those at risk due to abusive partners should be seen as priority and look at building these one room places for the homeless and get them off the streets more so in winter. Look at other countries how they deal with these issues | Homelessness |
| 172 | If someone has been on housing list from age of 16 and is now 30 and circumstances have changed etc. Pregnant and relationship with partner has broken down - should have some type of priority and also works full time | Personal, Applications |
| 173 | I disagree with home owners and property owners that have sold their home and then are allowed to apply for council housing and I also disagree with a single person being allowed to have a 3 bed house when demand is so high and also with parents renting their flats to family members while they share a house with their partners. | Home Ownership |
| 174 | I myself can not understand why any council tenant on benefits are allowed to keep scrap cars in there front gardens some have 4 cars not road taxed, not insured and may have petrol in, a fire hazard and more cars in driveways. Council should charge them for storage would bring in more revenue to the council. They are not allowed to keep them on the roadside it is a fine heavy (shambles) | Tenancies |
| 175 | Disagree with the system that no points are awarded for the time you are applicant. People on housing waiting list for years with no chance of being offered housing. | Applications |
| 176 | This survey doesn't help single men to get a council flat/house. Been on the housing list for at least 6 years and I'm no further forward to getting a council flat/house. | Applications |

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| 177 | I think the present system is all wrong I had my application for housing in for 12 years, I fill my forms in and return when they are sent out to me & yet am getting nowhere, 28 year old still staying between my sister and parents and don't have any points in excellent job in bank & yet I watch so many my age on benefits say they are homeless when they are not & get council houses so unfair. There a lot needs change in allocating houses. I feel filling in this form will make no difference what so ever. Again council wasting money. | Personal, Applications |
| 178 | I do not agree that young people who deliberately and pre-plan to have pregnancies to obtain a council house should be given priority housing. There must be a way forward to let young people know that this is no longer an option for them. A difficult task I know but if this practice can be discouraged in some way, then young people and children would not end up in unhappy and often disastrous lives | Allocations |
| 179 | I believe that provision of more one apartment homes would free up larger houses, There is an increase of single occupancy and availability of good quality single housing would encourage moves. It cannot be an easy task to oversee Housing Allocation and I appreciate this. Council tenants of East Lothian Council are very lucky to be in their charge and I wish to acknowledge this too. | Applications, Downsizing |
| 180 | Like all of Scotland, Musselburgh has an ageing population many are in 3 - 4 or even 5 apartments when a small house would be sufficient also many are more disabled and find it difficult to set out and about. Those of us of that age now need cottage type houses yet Musselburgh has very few even to sell East Lothian should build for that age group and free up larger properties. | Downsizing |
| 181 | Housing application No****. Level 8. Private rent to *****. How many levels needed to rent a council house? Kind regards William | Personal, Applications |
| 182 | Please keep drugs and paedophiles, anti social behaviour out of EL Council houses. PLEASE!! Thanks | Personal |
| 183 | Why is there no mention of people with disabilities having some kind of help | Personal |
| 184 | Because our present property- although well maintained won't release enough revenue to purchase another "one storey" building, we find ourselves in the position we are in. Having to ask the council for consideration for social housing | Home Ownership, Applications |
| 185 | There should be 3 lists split equally (1) Homeless (2) Waiting List (3) Transfer List Nobody who would fall into the waiting list category would ever be housed as people are aware that the only way to be housed is down the homeless route and it is widely abused - the first help is generally homeless people is private let and then let them wait on the waiting list | Homelessness, Applications |
| 186 | after few years on list should take people in discuss needs if no one should be allowed a 2 bed single people. | Applications |

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| 187 | I am currently in temp homeless accommodation. I am very grateful as it's a lovely place and I keep it very clean and tidy and have decorated. My only problem is that the rent is horrendous - £840 for a 1 bed flat. I can't work due to this and I just want to be rehoused to my permanent accommodation so I can work, pay normal rent, be normal. | Homelessness |
| 188 | I have been born and brought up in Musselburgh. I am a 52 year old woman in mid market rent. I have no points. Terrible and with the current allocation and new proposals I will never be offered housing in East Lothian. Feel free to contact if you want any more comments. S T***** | Personal, Applications |
| 189 | I am in private rental housing which ELC pay £620 per month. Due to my mental health issues and severe anxiety I am desperate to have my own tenancy which I can make my home & have a secure tenancy. I can also decorate it to my choice and not be restricted. | Applications, Affordability |
| 190 | I'm just keeping my fingers crossed that a house for myself comes up soon. I'm sofa surfing and there is people looking for a house like me. I've never had my own house and you hear people getting an asbo and you wish it was myself in that house. | Homelessness, Applications |
| 191 | Myself and wife have been on the council list for years, where is our help from the council - NONE Went from one private let to another so what's the point. | Applications, Allocations, Affordability |
| 192 | As a previous council tenant in past years, I was lucky, having worked hard and brought up two children to now own my own property. However, now retired and have health conditions, find it very hard to be awarded points for future sheltered housing. Angers me to see houses being used for temporary homeless when house has been adapted for disabled/elderly people at a great cost then being allocated to homeless who know they will move on, abuse the property and gardens | Homelessness |
| 193 | Health Issues!! Daughter lives *****, want to be closer. She helps me greatly when she can - Mary *****, ***** | Applications |
| 194 | I am on housing list but some cheeky girl said I cannot get medical points. I have had a stroke and fractured thighbone replaced. Have walking aids and severe arthritis and cannot walk very far. I have been told I cannot use a bath. It has to be a wet room for safety reasons. I also need to change my application | Personal, Applications |
| 195 | single males who work but cannot get a mortgage cannot get social housing. I have been on list for 8 years and no offers to date. Is this sex discrimination as females with kids get housed | Applications |
| 196 | Single males who work but cannot get/afford mortgage cannot get social housing. I have been on list for 5 years and no offers to date. sex discrimination? Females with kids get houses | Personal, Applications |
| 197 | Sorry, never had a council house don't quite understand how it all works. Although I have applied for one but there doesn't seem to be any in East Lothian and with my disabilities it's a bit of a worry. Brian ***** | Applications |

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| 198 | I have been waiting over a year for my first house to be on the outskirts but towards Edinburgh, my circumstances mean that I can hold down a property and pay a rent, houses should be awarded on the power to pay, homeless have to pay rent in a homeless establishment according to their income, it's not for nothing. My Mother is stressed and tired from having to share her home with me as we both have different life styles | Personal, Applications |
| 199 | I am disabled and do not live in a one level property. Because of this I have to sleep in the living room. ELC have not been supportive of my housing application or my needs | Applications |
| 200 | Think all pensioners whether they own their own property or not should still be allowed to be on the housing list for one bedroom houses on same level, i.e. no stairs | Applications |
| 201 | My wife and I have been on the Council list for many years now,. We live in a farm cottage at **** Farm, by ***** now for 26 years. The reason we have our name on the council list is for security as you never know what can happen and as we are now 81 and 86 years old it makes us feel a bit more secure in life. We do hope this can continue and thank you for all the services you provide. Yours Robert ***** | Personal, Applications |
| 202 | I am an applicant for housing for the elderly, i.e. sheltered housing, but I have no points but I am 78 years of age and live in a top flat. I feel I should have points because of age and people like me should be considered for more points | Personal, Applications |
| 203 | perhaps more bungalows in terrace or semi-detached design or one bed flats needed in premises with a lift? | |
| 204 | I and others have been on the housing list since I was 16 years old, I am now 27 and still have the same number of points now that I had then. 8. How am I ever going to get a council house if my points never change for 11 years. I live in a community where I have known drug users to get brand new houses while on benefits (Cockenzie). I have had a job for years and have no criminal offences yet I only have 8 points after 11 years - it is an absolute disgrace that I have not been considered for a house yet just because I am a law abiding citizen (that's what it feels like). The point system should be changed and more council houses should be built - I don't want to start drugs just to get a council house - this is mental torture. | Personal, Applications |
| 205 | I strongly believe that financial circumstances should be taken into consideration. As an individual who has been on the housing list with 8 points for nearly six years. I need to be near my work (full time) and I also struggle to live after paying rent and council tax. We don't want to be on benefits. We want our dignity. It would make sense for the Council to get these people into council houses and save the government money. Also I think references should be given by present landlords (private sector). Certain employers find it hard to get staff due to lack of housing in this area - we need to keep them here. | Personal, Applications, Affordabi |
| 206 | What you didn't mention is how a 43 year old man now with no kids will never get a council house. Now that's discrimination. | Personal, Applications |

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| 207 | I have known someone who was homeless for over 2 years, was never given a choice of home because he was a man. This is all wrong. It is always people with children that come first, therefore single people get left behind especially men | Homelessness |
| 208 | I have 3 slipped discs but keep working and will have to coz you get no help whatsoever. Need to look after the workers not the alkie and drugies. | Applications |
| 209 | waited years but single, elderly!! But got a roof over my head have no urgency to be rehomed | Applications |
| 210 | Need to make medical points more transparent as someone who has been refused medical points would like to know how near death you have to be | Applications |
| 211 | People over 50 who find themselves homeless for whatever reason should be given same rights to have a 2 bedroom property as they have grandchildren who stay over or family. Just because you are on your own you should not just be considered for one bedroom as there is a lack of these to start with. | Homelessness, Applications |
| 212 | This review is very important, but two key issues remain - (1) the basic shortage of social housing and (2) a review of the current use of properties (especially under-occupation and potential sub-letting). The first is largely a financial issue, but the second is more complex politically. Solving (1) would pre-empt the need to address (2) urgently | Downsizing |
| 213 | The elderly need more sheltered housing where we can move when we are unable to stay in our own home regardless if we own our property or not. Then those houses can be occupied by the younger generation. The ideal place in Dunbar should have been in the grounds on Station Road. Now 5 bedroom houses for the rich. This would have been perfect to be near the town, doctor and shops | Personal, Applications |
| 214 | person only submitted the last page only with NO COMMENTS | |
| 215 | Been on the list since 2002 | |
| 216 | I am now 73 and I have given up all hope of getting a sheltered house. Very disappointed. | Personal, Applications |
| 217 | I don't think it's fair that waiting time points were scrapped. I have been on council list for over 30 years and only since having a medical condition was offered housing | Applications |
| 218 | Help and advice for people forced to take private lets because they divorce and only have access visits (overnight) as they do not priority housing due to disabled child's needs being met by one parent. My disabled child stays 2 nights, my private rent is damp, full of mould and environmental health didn't help! So unfair! I have social work and doctor letters stating my child's health is being affected but still getting no priority award! | Personal, Applications |
| 219 | Build more council houses | |

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| 220 | I part own my home and have been on ELC housing list for the last 8 years and still have no points. I am not asking to jump the housing list, but 8 years and no points | Applications |
| 221 | As said I have been in private rented for 12 years and I am still at the bottom of the list. With no hope of poor getting a council house,. I think the system is crap. I also foster, on the community council and Gala committee so feel I do my bit and I can't even get a mortgage to buy the house I rent. I get help with my rent which over 12 years has actually cost the council about £90k. ***** | Applications, Affordability |
| 222 | I think all housing allocations are unfair. I am 53 been on the list for 8 years. Have to live with Mum & Dad and can't bring any friends in as it's not my house. My children are grown up but can't have them to stay due to no room. Also people coming in from other countries get priority. I have never missed a day's work. No benefits claimed!!! | Personal, Applications |
| 223 | I have been on the list 14 years and got nowhere. I know people my age that have houses. I have a medical condition since 12 years old and still not been offered anything. List not working for my group and none of these questions relate to my situation. | Personal, Applications |
| 224 | I have been on the waiting list since 1990. Was told I would get a house if I was expecting a baby. I was then made homeless by a physical/mental husband. I was told you had nothing to help myself and 2 children aged 14/10. I had to get private let £775/month. Still in it. I know someone who made herself homeless and moved in with parents along with her daughter. She hounded Council etc. until she was given a place. False applications, savings - £ thousand previous homeowner. It would appear telling the truth gets you nowhere. Your points system is so wrong | Personal, Homelessness, Applic |
| 225 | Council properties should never have been sold off. I believe the system re buying property has been abused by many who bought one house, sold it and went back on council list and were given another house. This is just not a fair or proper way to use housing stock | |
| 226 | Disappointing that no mention is made of single status applicants (i.e. no family members, partners etc.) | |
| 227 | I have been in a private let for 6 years. I am 54 and have worked since I left school, still working. I am willing to pay rent but alas I don't get offered a house. System is TERRIBLE | Applications |
| 228 | One issue that should be considered is the re application for housing each year, i feel this is not necessary and could be covered with an update online form to confirm wish to continue the application. | Applications |
| 229 | Consideration to tenants who are the victim of anti social behaviour from neighbours. | Tenancies |
| 230 | Better transparency when it comes to allocations as we are always left guessing and wondering why someone has been made an offer of permanent accommodation who has only been here less than 6 months when there is at least 2 of us who have been here almost 2 years | Applications, Allocations |

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| 231 | N/A. | |
| 232 | Please supply feedback of the findings etc. North Berwick | |
| 233 | i am unhappy with the time it takes for house or flats to be allocated as I have four adults sharing a bedroom which I do not think is healthy as two of them has asthma. | Overcrowding, Applications |
| 234 | I am wanting to move out of my property due to safety and antisocial behaviour of neighbours. But i have no relatives in east lothian and you wont give me a home i feel this policy should for if i had the money to buy a property i could move anywhere i want. I shouldn't feel restricted if i cant buy a home and have to rely on social housing . in your points system i would be priority but im not due having no connections which is a terrible way to allocate homes. | Personal, Applications |
| | It's not clear for anyone reading the document what the key changes are or why they're being proposed? Some explanatory narrative would be helpful – for consultation and applicants? | |
| | Primarily re which issues arise from deferred and phased implementation of the Hg Sc Act 2014 and which from general policy review? | |
| | Scope There are references in Appendix 2- Other Policies & Strategies to separate policies covering Assignment, Subletting and Succession. Presumably changes arising from 2014 Act implementation on these issues will be addressed by separate review and updating of those policies. However, it's not clear how/ where the Council plan to outline policy in relation to granting of joint tenancies and use of different tenancy agreements, particularly short tenancies? Also, at present a common model secure tenancy agreement is in use by all RSLs in East Lothian, including the Council, and hopefully such partnering initiatives can continue under new Policy? | |
| | • 3.3- Reasonable Preference See comments below at 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) | |
| | • 3.4 Unmet Housing Need See comments below at 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) | |
| | • 3.5- Homelessness It may be helpful to applicants to offer some further explanation/ definition of 'settled accommodation', if this is not covered elsewhere in this or other related policies? | |
| | • 3.7- Circumstances not considered The inserted 'Note' at the end of this section refers applicants to Section 4.9 for further information. This should be Section 4.8 Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership). Presumably numbering has changed due to redrafting? | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) This section confirms that home ownership can be taken into account, however it does not offer any insight into how the Council will do so? It appears implied that this will be considered in determining 'unmet housing need' as part of determining 'Reasonable Preference' under Section 3.3- Reasonable Preference? If so, it would be better to spell this out and cross reference these. Also, and conversely, the additional detail on 'this also applies to any funds that are the proceeds from a property that has been sold by the applicant or a person who will live with the applicant' is somewhat confusion text and unnecessarily proscriptive. The guidance on the Act advises that ...'When deciding on an applicant's priority for housing, the Act allows social landlords to take the ownership or value of property owned by the applicant into account'.That appears broader in scope than the Council's proposed text, which appears to limit consideration to funds realised from ink they should have priority for smaller housing, and have some element of compulsion to go there. I'm not sure about inheriting tenancies either. (Home/ Land Ownership) •3.4 Unmet Housing Need □ oSee comments below at 4.8- Heritable Property (Home/ Land Ownership) •3.5- Homelessness □ o It may be helpful to applicants to offer some further explanation/ definition of 'settled accommodation', if this not covered elsewhere in this or other related policies? •3.7- Circumstances not considered □ oThe inserted 'Note' at the end of this section refers applicants to Section 4.9 for further information. Thi | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.9- Tenancy Fraud The highlighted box inserted on page 18- on' Housing Cheats'- is the only such insert in the whole policy. It has no explanatory note, its tone feels wrong in isolation, and it sits uncomfortably within the overall policy. Surely, the issues raised in this box are already covered in the main text here- in more appropriate language. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4- Elements of Housing Need 5.5.1-5.5.3- pages 21-23- I think numbering is wrong here- presumably due to redrafting? Should be 5.4.1-5.4.3? Subsequent sections need renumbered accordingly- ie 5.4- 5.9 should become 5.5-6.0? 5.4.3- Key Workers (page 25- but should be renumbered 5.5.3 as outlined above?) This section references the Re-Housing Panel as determining whether or not to award points for this. However, the subsequent detail on the Re-Housing Panel at 8.11- Re-Housing Panel Procedures does not appear to reference Key Worker considerations as part of the scope of the Re-Housing Panel? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.9- Suspensions & Deferred Applications This section confirms detail on the Council's statutory right to apply these, and the circumstances for which the Council will, but does not indicate how or when applicants will be advised that they have in fact been suspended or deferred? This is important in the context of references here to an Applicant's right of Appeal- as unless the Applicant is aware of the Suspension or Deferral how can they appeal? | |

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| | <p>Section 10 – Appeals and Complaints also does not refer at all to Appeals about this? The section does however reference a separate Suspensions & Deferrals Policy, and this may have significant supplementary detail, but given the other detail included in this section it seems odd not to also cover confirmations / notifications here? This section could also benefit from restructuring as current breakdown is somewhat complex.</p> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.11- Re-Housing Panel Procedures As indicated above- at 5.4.3- Key Workers- this section appears to omit any reference to the Re-Housing Panel's role in determining points for Key Workers, as outlined at 5.4.3- either in terms of specific detail or in the list of what the Panel deals with on page 44. Again, this section could also benefit from restructuring as current breakdown is somewhat complex. In particular: The section headed 'The Rehousing Resettlement Panel deals with:' may be out of place? Is this not specific to consideration of the final category in the list of what the panel deals with on page 44- ie 'looked after children' or what is referred to on page 44 under the final current heading 'Care Experienced Children'? The Section headed 'The Panel's Decision' would seem to be a concluding one covering all types of decision | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.13- Allocations by the Community Housing Services Manager Inclusion of such discretion is sensible. However: Although an example is quoted, should it not also be made clear that other examples may exist- ie not restricted to this? Also, is it wise to be so proscriptive about who has the right to exercise that discretion? Might it not be safer to leave it broader to include other 'or other Managers'? | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.1- Appeals As indicated above in comments on 8.9- Suspensions & Deferrals, there is no reference to appeals about that. However, this may be covered in the Appeals & Complaints Leaflet referred to in this section? Whilst it may not be a Policy or Procedure, it may be useful to also include the 'Appeals & Complaints Leaflet' in the schedule of related Policy and Procedures at Appendix 2? | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendices Schedule Appendix 2 wrongly titled? Should include 'and Strategies'? | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 2- Other Policies & Strategies See comments above at Overall / Scope See comments above at 10.1- Appeals | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 3- Referrals to Housing Associations It is not made clear elsewhere in the main Policy document why this is Appended here? There appears to be no specific references in the main Policy document either to the circumstances under which Applicants – either General or Homeless- may be nominated to Housing Associations or to this Appendix? This appears to be an important omission which needs to be addressed? Also, in any case, should the reference not be to ‘Registered Social Landlords’ as a catch all rather than to ‘Housing Associations’, or to ‘Housing Associations and other Registered Social Landlords? (ie including Homes for Life, or LAR Trust if they are also an RSL to whom the Council may also nominate Applicants on occasions?) | |
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Q10. Please tell us which of the groups below best describes you. This will allow us to provide information and advice to different interest groups.

| | Comments |
|----|---|
| 1 | We are living in a private property with a high rent (for us, because we are pensioners) and look forward to moving to a council property. |
| 2 | People are far too picky when it comes to Social Housing and should be more grateful. |
| 3 | People living in caravans or lodges should be classed as homeless. They may have a roof over their heads but it is not a home and has many restrictions. There are a lot of people who still have use of broadband and the internet and find it difficult to find out which houses are vacant and cannot put in an offer for them. A weekly list of houses should be on show at libraries and town halls. I*** K*** |
| 4 | Tel Number removed |
| 5 | Council tenant for 40 years |
| 6 | Tenants who have become homeless through fault of their own should not be given priority. |
| 7 | Sheltered |
| 8 | N/A |
| 9 | Homeless |
| 10 | Sheltered housing |
| 11 | Living with parents. |
| 12 | I am in temporary housing through East Lothian council. |
| 13 | Daughter of Council Tenant |
| 14 | Private Tenant |
| 15 | I have been a council tenant for over 34 years. |
| 16 | O.A.P |
| 17 | I live in a housing association property. |
| 18 | Link PSL |
| 19 | East Lothian housing Tenant |
| 20 | Feel this is an absolute waste of my time as I feel sure council has already made up their mind on this subject, and this "consultation" survey is just to try and make out that tenants have been consulted and then do what you want anyway, much like you did when you moved the Rent Office at P/Pans into the library. |
| 21 | Service for all mail as I not getting any? ILA/Work Trial nothing by post etc so no post at all. Gas service no warning card, was in at time of arrival that day. |

| | |
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| 22 | Are the council doing enough to get builders of homes to allocate more of the houses to council for renting out? After all the amenities are used up for building ie green spaces. |
| 23 | Not involved in any of the above |
| 24 | Address removed |
| 25 | Address removed |
| 26 | As I am recently separated with a not so badly paid job, I find it expensive to live in a private rental which is needed to afford space for my children's visits. How is it I am not able to get assistance from the Council to rent a property, but many others find loopholes to get cheaper, more affordable Council homes! From an angry single broke Father !! |
| 27 | I am currently in a private let but waiting on being offered a council tenancy, I have been waiting roughly 10 years. |
| 28 | Name removed |
| 29 | I am currently in housing accommodation I have been in here since December 2016. |
| 30 | Private let resident, single mother of three, 2 bedrooms. Landlords are not great. Have been put on waiting list yet still awaiting for feedback from ELC for over a year. |
| 31 | Private Landlord |
| 32 | Private residential tenant |
| 33 | At the moment I am private renting |
| 34 | Applicant for housing due to severe medical condition |
| 35 | Private tenant in council area East Lothian |
| 36 | Private tenant - awaiting on list for housing. |
| 37 | Homelessness/in council temp accommodation |
| 38 | Private tenant |
| 39 | ELHA (East Lothian Housing Association) |
| 40 | Private rental |
| 41 | living in supported accommodation |

