



Good Practice

Objective

<p>Local Connection Registration Events</p>	<p>To help overcome staff capacity issues in terms of identifying eligible households and verifying local connections, reducing the time taken to allocate housing to local people; and to help build relationships with parish councils</p>
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Detail

Although this process requires a lot of officer time in arranging the event in advance, there are considerable savings at allocation. Parish councils and local members are also included in the events and as yet we have not experienced an occasion where they have not been supportive.

The main roles are for the Rural Housing Enabler, Homemove Officer (Chichester DC), and the development officer and allocation officer for the Registered provider. The Registered Provider is expected to attend the event and bring information about the scheme. Chichester DC staff assist with local connection issues and problems surrounding proof of eligibility. This is also an opportunity for people to join the housing register and be considered for one of the properties.

Where appropriate, information about shared ownership properties is also available.

Outcomes

There have been some benefits in assessing both the current and future need in the area. The events have provided an additional opportunity to provide the local community with information about the affordable housing to be provided, and for local households to join the register. This provides extra information in respect of local housing need, which both the district and parish councils can take into consideration when assessing future development needs.

Update – 2012 This has been a very successful development to our allocation scheme and is now a commonly used tool for the allocation of new affordable homes in the rural area, whether on Section 106 sites or Exception Sites. It means that we undertake greater engagement with our communities and that local households have greater access to new housing developments. Significantly, it also means that our housing register is kept regularly up to date and that we have all the necessary information required to allocate new rural affordable housing. Chichester's rural communities have been very supportive of this approach

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