



Key Changes to Rural Local Connection Criteria Fact Sheet

Anyone who wishes to apply to join the housing register must have a local connection to the Cheshire West and Chester area. This means that an applicant must either currently live, work or have family in the area to be considered.

What were the old rural local connection criteria?

The old Allocations Policy gave preference for rural homes to those applicants who have a rural connection. To get the priority, applicants must have lived in the area (defined in the old policy as 'the ward') where the empty property is located for the last 12 months, or previously have lived there for 5 years; have immediate family in the ward, or have a permanent contract of employment in the ward. For some newer properties planning policy also applies additional criteria to ensure only applicants with a local connection are prioritised.

So what's changed?

To simplify the allocation process and make sure the limited number of homes that become available each year are prioritised to those in greatest housing need, the new Allocations

Policy no longer has an additional rural local connection requirement for social housing, except on a few individual new housing schemes where agreed as part of the planning permission. When these properties are advertised, the advert will explain what specific additional rural connection applicants are required to have, to be shortlisted.

If you would like further information then please contact West Cheshire Homes directly via:

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