

Annual monitoring review of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Allocations Scheme 2024/2025

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Housing Register applicants' information

Year on Year Housing Register totals

As of 31 March 2025, there were 4465 households on the housing register. In 2023/24, there were 5304 households on the housing register, which is a 16% decrease from last year, as shown in table 1 below. The total number of applicants on the housing register has decreased by 839 households. This is the first year a decrease has been seen (other than due to Covid) and this can be attributed to detailed work taken to understand the inactive applicant's housing needs. Further information about this is detailed on page 12.

In 2024/25, 74% of the households on the housing register are general needs applicants, compared to 75% last year. The remaining 26% are transfer applicants.

Table 1 – Year on Year Housing Register totals

Year End	Total numbers	% increase from previous year
2024/25	4465	16% decrease
2023/24	5304	12%
2022/23	4742	17%
2021/22	4061	17.5% decrease *
2020/21	4923	9%
2019/20	4507	6%
2018/19	4251	16%
2017/18	3675	21%
2016/17	3037	N/A

**The decrease of applicants on the register during 2021/22 is due to the annual review of housing applications being paused during Covid.*

Breakdown of applicants on the housing register

In 2024/25, 74% of the households on the housing register were general needs applicants, a decrease of 1% since 2023/24. The total of single applicants on the housing register has decreased from 61% in 2023/24 to 59% in 2024/25 and families with older children have increased from 3% in 2023/24 to 5% in 2024/25, shown in table 2(i) and (ii) and graph 1 below.

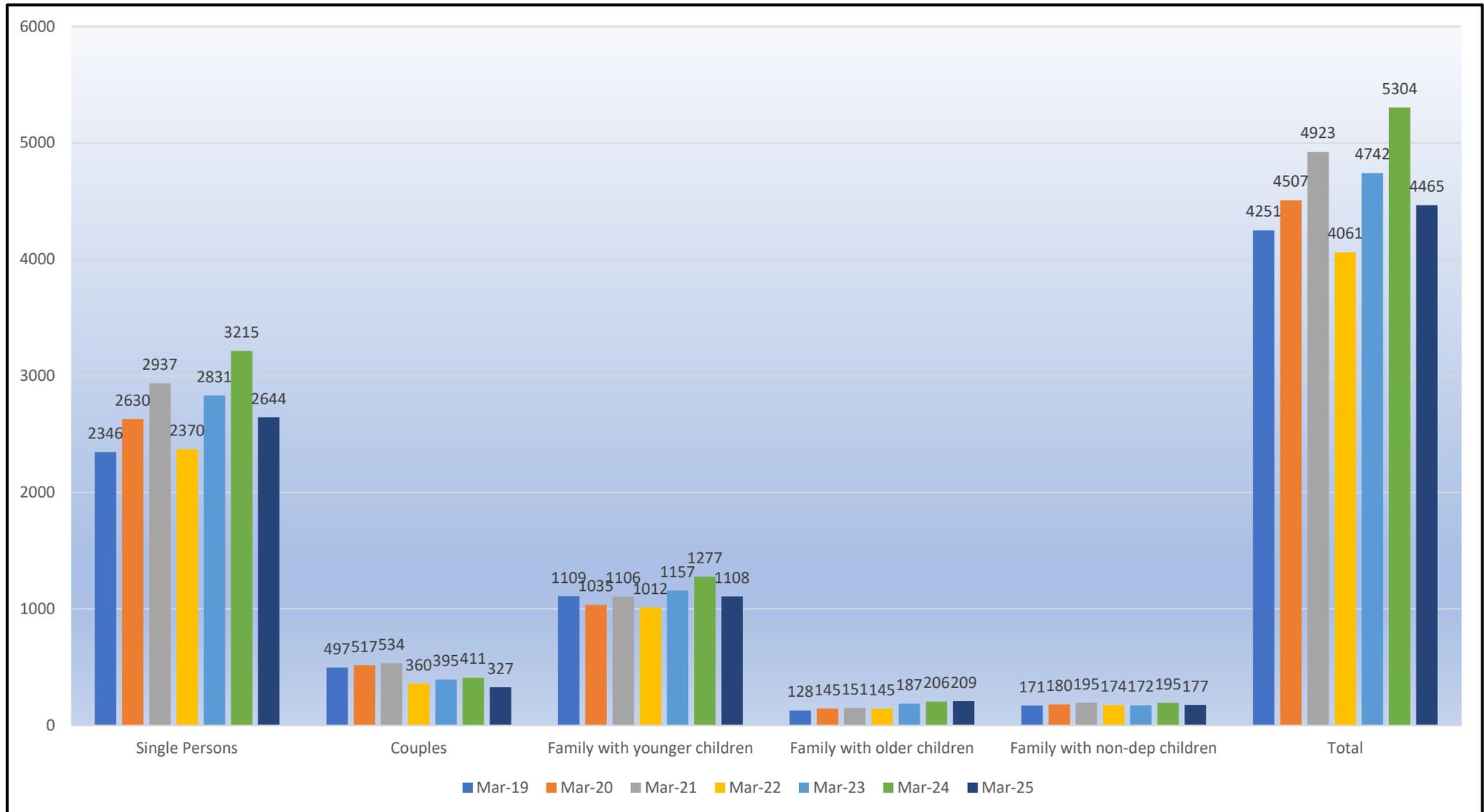
Table 2(i) - Households on the housing register in 2024/25

Totals on the housing register	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Total	Total %
Single persons	35	2561	48	2644	59%
Couples	12	315	0	327	7%
Family with younger children	2	1097	9	1108	25%
Family with older children	3	202	4	209	5%
Family with non-dependent children	3	174	0	177	4%
Total	55	4349	61	4465	

Table 2(ii) - Households on the housing register in 2023/24

Totals on the housing register	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Total	Total %
Single persons	83	3061	71	3215	61%
Couples	16	394	1	411	8%
Family with younger children	11	1258	8	1277	24%
Family with older children	2	200	4	206	3%
Family with non-dependent children	12	182	1	195	4%
Total	124	5095	85	5304	

Graph 1 – Numbers on the housing register by household type



Single applicants

The largest group of households on the housing register remains single applicants, comprising 59% of all household types. This is a 2% decrease from last year. 62% of all general needs (non-transfer) single applicants on the housing register are aged under 35. This is a 7% decrease from 2023/24 (and 2022/23).

Table 3(i) – Age ranges of single person households on the housing register in 2024/25

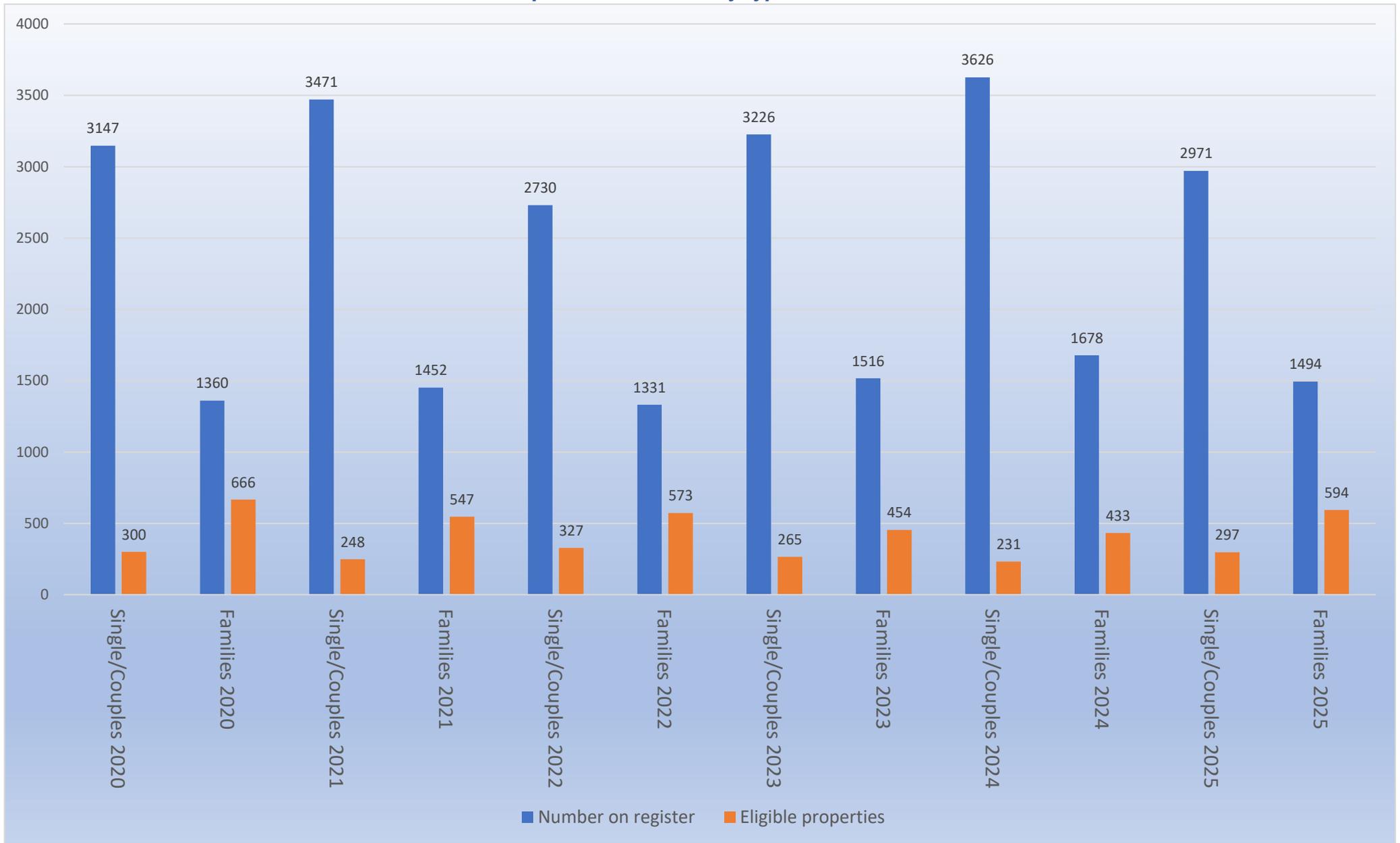
Age range	General Needs	Transfers	Totals	% of all totals
16-19	288	0	288	11%
20-24	645	4	649	24%
25-34	702	29	731	28%
35-54	467	70	537	20%
55+	275	164	439	17%
Totals	2377	267	2644	

Table 3(ii) – Age ranges of single person households on the housing register in 2023/24

Age range	General Needs	Transfers	Totals	% of all totals
16-19	311	0	311	10%
20-24	787	6	793	25%
25-34	844	39	883	27%
35-54	565	103	668	21%
55+	320	240	560	17%
Totals	2827	388	3215	

The number of single person/couple applications compared to properties becoming available continues to far outweigh supply to a significantly greater extent than for families. In 2024/25 the ratio of single person/couple applicants to properties were 10:1, compared to 3:1 as demonstrated in graph 2 below. The ratio has decreased since last year with the ratio of single person/couple applicants to properties being 16:1, compared to 4:1 for families in 2023/24. This will largely be down to the increased number of properties advertised. This year's ratio is similar to the applications to properties ratio in 2022/23 where single person/couple applicants to properties were 12:1, compared to 3:1 for families.

Graph 2 – household by type : vacancies

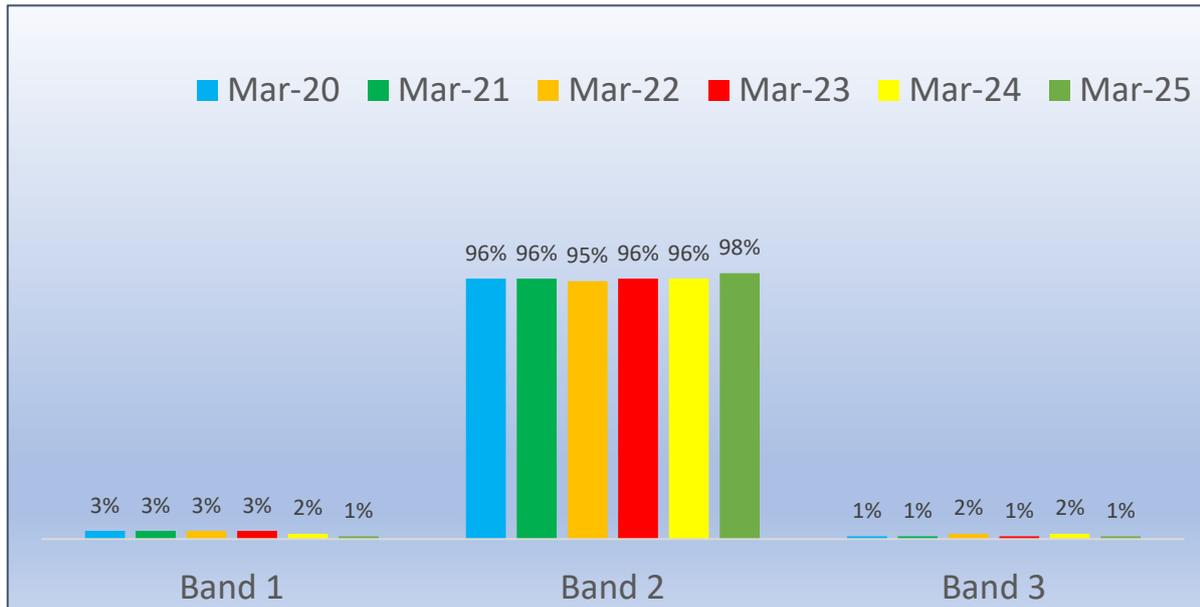


How are applications prioritised for vacancies?

To qualify to join the housing register, all applicants must have an assessed housing need. Applicants are then categorised into three bands and prioritised according to the date of their application (i.e. how long they have been waiting). The distribution of applicants by band has always remained similar as demonstrated in graph 3 below.

Although this year, there has been an increase by 2% of applicants in Band 2 and a decrease by 1% of applicants in Bands 1 and 3.

Graph 3 – breakdown of applicants by band



Band 1 Applicants:

Applicants in Band 1 are those with a critical/urgent need to move as well as transfer applicants under occupying a unit of social housing by two or more bedrooms. There is a notable 56% decrease of the number of applicants in Band 1 since 2023/24 as shown in table 4. This may be attributed to the assistance given to those applicants in Band 1.

Of the 55 applicants in Band 1, 53 are transfer applicants under occupying their current accommodation by two or more bedrooms. Households who are on the register for this reason tend to be more selective with the bids that they place, which is why only 21 households from this group successfully used their Band 1 status to move in the last year, compared to 12 last year and 6 households in 2022/23.

The increase in the number of applicants choosing to bid can be attributed to the assistance given to the applicants within Band 1. Officers have assisted these applicants to obtain medical information to ensure they are bidding on the required property type along with referring applicants to Registered Providers' downsizing

Annual Allocations Scheme review 2024/25 schemes, including SNG's [Right-Sizing scheme](#). This in turn has reduced the number of applicants waiting in Band 1.

Table 4 - Households in Band 1

Year	Total number of Band 1 applicants	Total number of applicants under occupying by 2 or more bedrooms who moved
2024/25	55	21
2023/24	124	12

Band 2 Applicants:

The vast majority (98%) of all applicants are placed in Band 2, which has increased by 2% since 2023/24. This increase is due to the decrease in the number of Band 1 applicants.

Band 3 Applicants:

As of 31 March 2025, there were 61 applicants in Band 3, equating to less than 2% of the total number of applicants on the housing register.

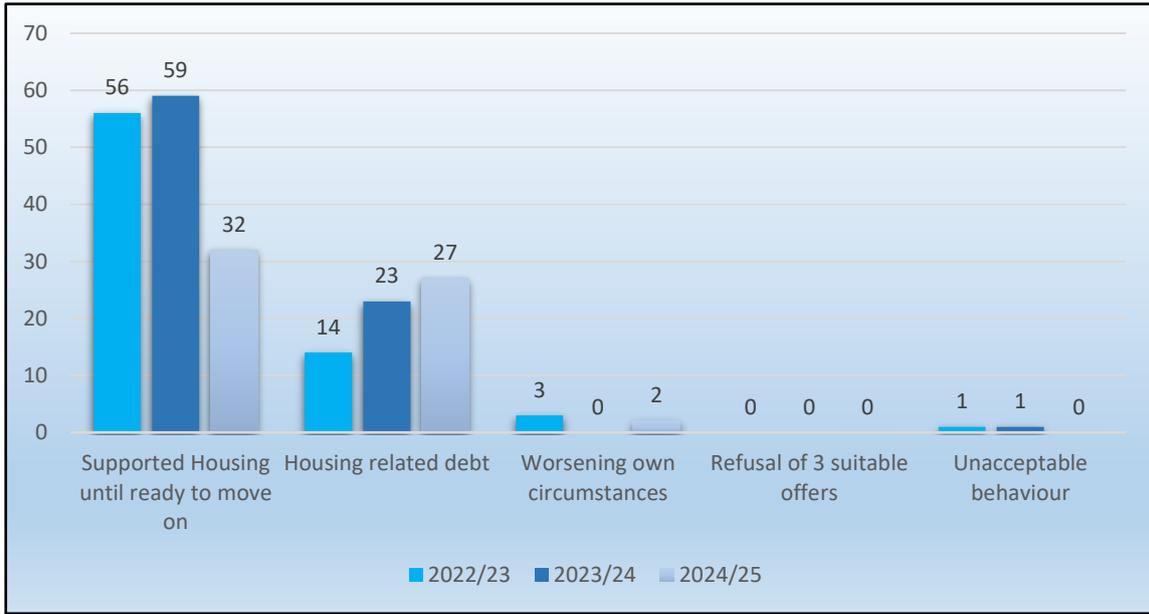
Table 5 - Households in Band 3

Year	Total number of Band 3 applicants
2024/25	61
2023/24	85

Band 3 applicants are in housing need but have reduced priority for one or more of the following reasons (shown in graph 4):

- Having housing related debts or unacceptable behaviour
- Deliberately worsening their housing circumstances
- They have refused three reasonable offers
- They are in supported housing and not ready for a move to independent accommodation

Graph 4 – Breakdown of applicants in Band 3



It is still the case that no applicants have had their priority reduced due to refusing three suitable offers of accommodation.

All the applicants owing housing related debts are supported to arrange a payment plan and are referred to appropriate support services to enable them to move into Band 2. The breakdown of those applicants in Band 3 with housing related debt is as follows:

Table 6 – breakdown of applicants in Band 3 with housing related debt

Year	Reason for housing related debt				
	Evicted from social housing for tenancy arrears	Current rent arrears	Former tenancy arrears including with a private landlord	Has a housing benefit overpayment	Owe Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council money
2024/25	7	5	12	1	2
2023/24	19	0	1	1	2

Inactive Housing Applicants

81% of applicants on the housing register are actively searching and bidding for social housing, as they have both logged into their account on Basingstoke Homebid and placed a bid, irrespective of their time registered on the housing register. This is a 7% increase from last year.

There are 834 applicants (19% of the total housing register) who have yet to place a bid on a property, which has decreased by 7% over the last two years. Within these applicants, 298 (7% of the total housing register) have never logged into their account on Basingstoke Homebid and therefore by virtue of this, have never placed a bid. This has decreased by 4% over the last two years. This demonstrates more applicants are logging on and exercising their choice to wait before placing a bid on a property of their choosing.

Table 7(i) – Active households

Year	Active households	Never placed a bid	Never logged on
2024/25	81%	834 (19%)	298 (7%)
2023/24	74%	1394 (26%)	574 (11%)
2022/23	74%	26%	11%

During the year 2024/25, 1555 households did not place a bid (35% of the total housing register), this comprised of 1199 single person or couple households and 219 family households with children. More households are choosing to bid, as there has been an 8% reduction since last year, in the households that chose not to bid this year.

Table 7(ii) – Breakdown of active households

Year	Chose not to place a bid during the current year	Single person or couple	Family with children
2024/25	1555 (35%)	1199	219
2023/24	2284 (43%)	1802	482

In 2024/25, there were 47 households that had an application prior to 2015, which is the year Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council amended the Allocations Scheme to the current Scheme. There has been a 38% decrease in the number of households with an application date prior to 2015 since last year.

531 households (12% of the total housing register) would have been highly likely to be successful in obtaining a social housing property had they placed a bid last year. This is based on the applicant's time registered on the housing register. This equates to 34% of the applicants that did not place a bid. This is shown in table 8(i) below. This is a decrease since last year, as 923 households (17% of the total housing register) would have been likely to be successful in obtaining a social housing property had they placed a bid. This is positive as more applicants are choosing to bid and are successful in obtaining a property.

Table 8(i) – inactive households within 2024/25

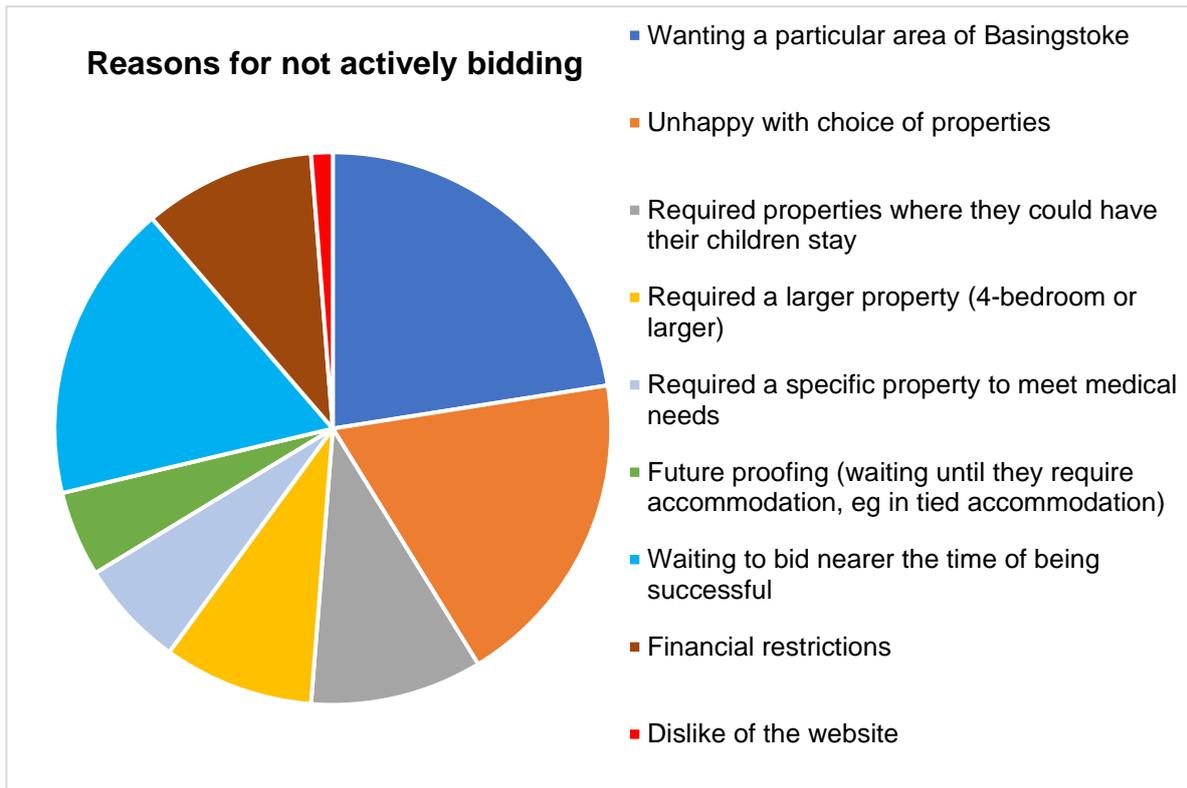
	1 or 2 or 3 bedroom flat or house (based on the applicant's property eligibility within the allocations scheme)	4 or 5 bedroom house (based on the applicant's property eligibility within the allocations scheme)	Total
Single / couple households	348	0	348
Families with children	152	31	183
Total	500	31	531

Table 8(ii) – inactive households within 2023/24

	1 or 2 or 3 bedroom flat or house (based on the applicant's property eligibility within the allocations scheme)	4 or 5 bedroom house (based on the applicant's property eligibility within the allocations scheme)	Total
Single / couple households	558	0	558
Families with children	268	97	365
Total	826	97	923

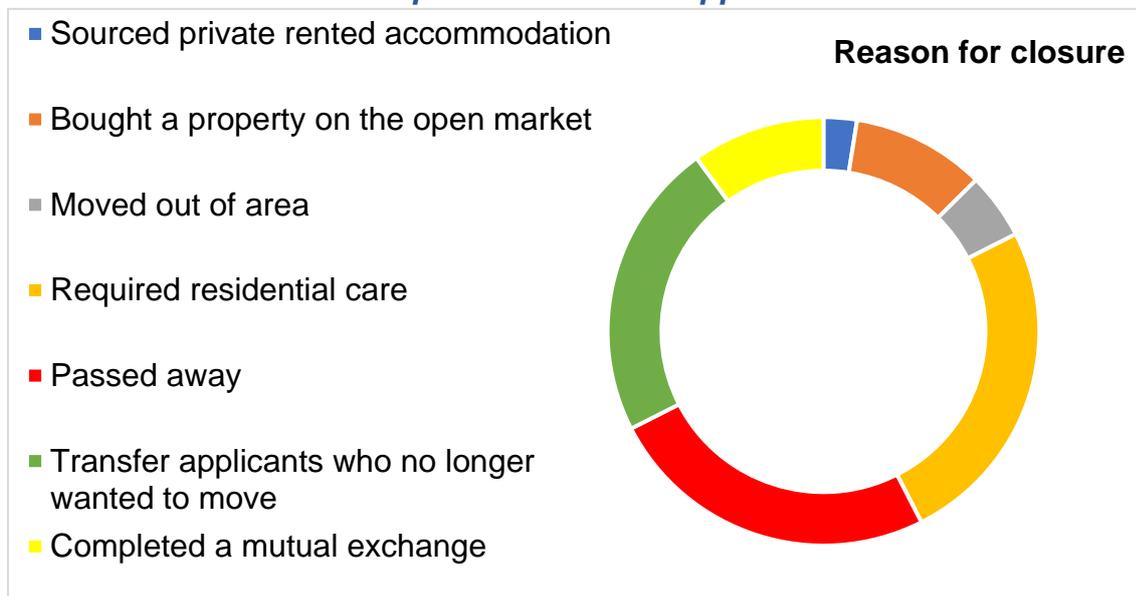
During the year 24/25 a sample of applications were taken to investigate the reasons why applicants were not placing bids. Of this sample, most applicants had forgotten their log-in information and were assisted to re-set this to enable them to actively bid. The other applicants responded with differing reasons for not placing bids, with the main reasons being the applicants were waiting for a particular location, they were dissatisfied with the choice of properties and were waiting to bid until nearer the time they are likely to be successful on properties.

Graph 5 – Non-active bidders



Whilst understanding applicant’s inactivity, this prompted the closure of applications, contributing to the decrease of the number of households on the housing register. From a sample of the applications closed, the main reason for closure was positive where applicants had resolved their own housing situation and no longer required a move to social housing.

Graph 6 – Closure of applications



Properties

Properties advertised

A total of 891 properties were advertised as available for letting during the year, a significant 25% increase from last year. The total number of properties are shown in table 9 below and the different type of properties advertised for letting are shown in graph 7 below.

Table 9 – total number of properties advertised for letting, including houses and flats

Year	Total number of properties advertised	Total number of houses advertised	Total number of flats advertised	Total number of flats with ground floor or lift access
2024/25	891	301	500	189
2023/24	664	238	343	140
2022/23	719	238	372	152

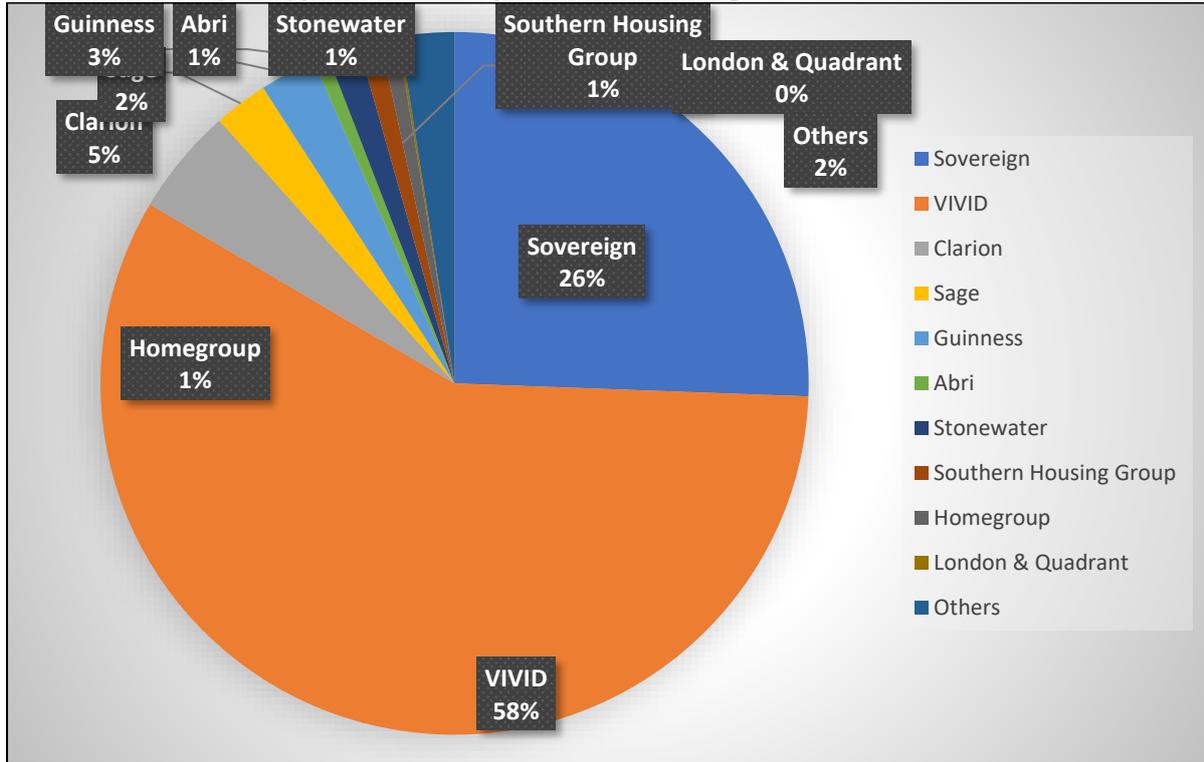
301 (34%) of the properties advertised were houses and 500 (56%) were flats and studios. This is a 2% decrease in the number of houses advertised and a 4% increase in the number of flats advertised compared to last year. Out of the 500 flats that were advertised, 38% were either ground floor or had lift access, which is a 3% decrease from last year at 41%.

Graph 7 – type of properties advertised

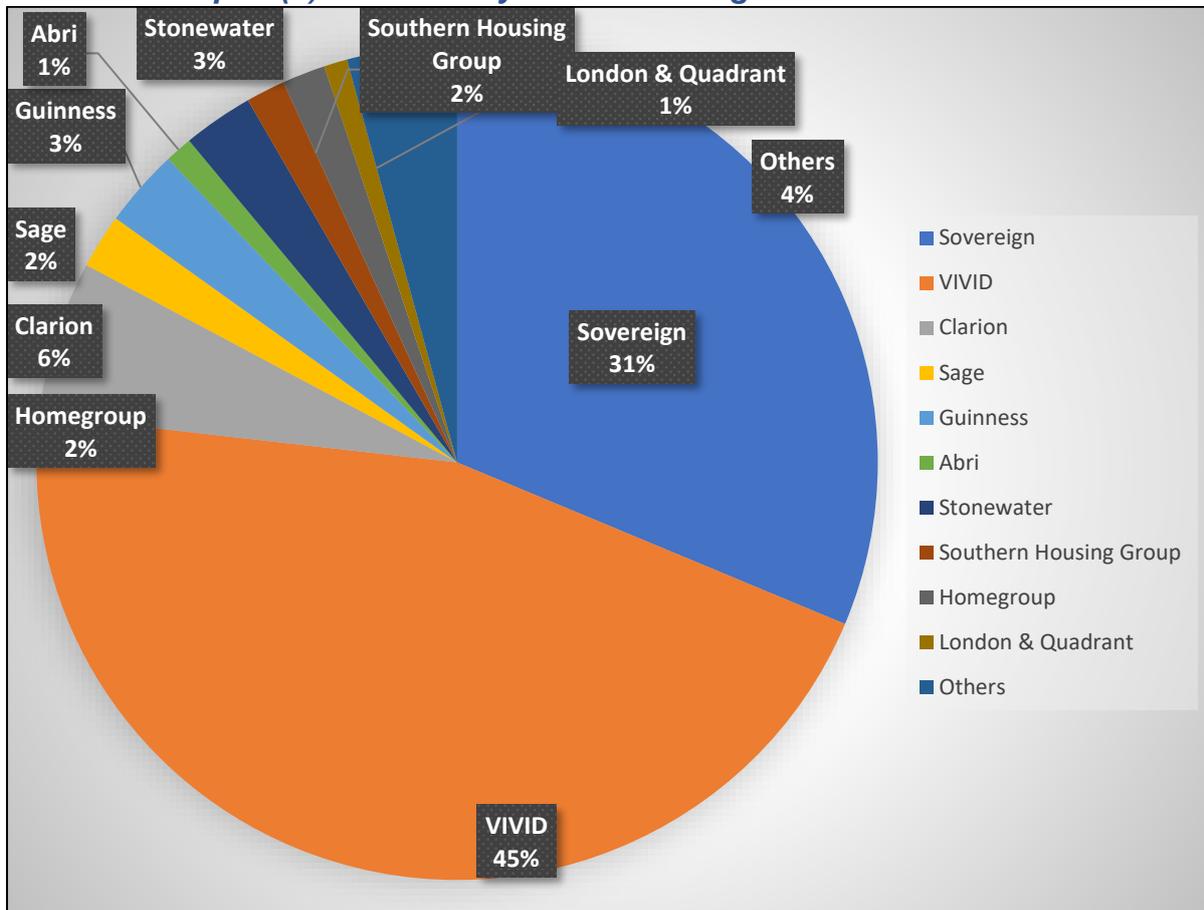


Properties advertised by Housing Associations

Graph 8(i) – adverts by social housing landlords in 2024/25



Graph 8(ii) – adverts by social housing landlords in 2023/24



In 2024/25, 84% of all vacancies were advertised by either SNG (previously Sovereign) or VIVID housing associations, the remainder being through other registered providers. This is a 7% increase from last year and is a similar level of adverts by SNG and/or VIVID as in 2022/23. It should be noted that in 2023/24, the reason for the decrease in percentage of properties advertised by SNG and VIVID housing associations, was mostly due to SNG's advertised vacancies having reduced by 11%.

Table 10 – properties advertised by registered providers

Year	Total number of properties advertised by SNG	Total number of properties advertised by VIVID	Total number of properties advertised	SNG and VIVID's percentage of all properties advertised
2024/25	228	516	891	84%
2023/24	208	302	664	77%

In 2024/25, VIVID advertised 58% of all vacancies, with SNG advertising 26%, which is a change from 2023/24, where VIVID advertised 45% of all vacancies, and SNG advertised 31%. In the year prior (2022/23), both housing associations advertised similar levels of properties, at approximately 40% each of the total properties. Over the last two years VIVID have continued to increase their level of advertised properties, with SNG's level of advertised properties decreasing. This year VIVID has advertised 32% more than SNG and advertised 14% more than SNG last year.

Ground floor and adapted priorities

The Allocations Scheme allows for suitable properties to be prioritised for applicants who require specific accommodation to meet a medical need. In 2024/25, 639 households (14%) on the housing register required either a ground floor or an adapted property, compared to 10% on the housing register in 2023/24.

In 2024/25, 345 properties were advertised granting priority to households who needed this specific type of accommodation, compared to 232 properties advertised in 2023/24. This equated to 39% of the total properties advertised, compared to 35% in 2023/24. There has been an increase in the percentage of these types of properties advertised since 2022/23.

Table 10 – total number of households on the housing register requiring ground floor or adapted properties and the number of households offered these property types

Year	Number of households on the housing register requiring ground floor or adapted property	Number of properties advertised granting priority to households who require ground floor or adapted properties
2024/25	639 (14%)	345 (39%)
2023/24	555 (10%)	232 (35%)
2022/23	11%	229 (32%)

Flats

To ensure households, have the widest choice of options on the housing register the Allocations Scheme enables households with younger children (i.e. under 10) to place bids on upper floor flats. In 2024/25 a total of 404 two-bedroom houses and flats were advertised for letting to households with children. This is an 8% increase from last year.

66% of these properties were flats, increased from 60% in 2023/24. It is noted that last year there was a decrease in the overall number of properties advertised reflecting a decrease in the number of flats being advertised.

There has been a significant increase in single applicants and/or couples being offered two-bedroom flats, increasing from 6 households last year to 29 households this year.

Table 11 – total number of two-bedroom houses and flats advertised for letting

Year	Total number of two-bedroom houses and flats	Total number of two-bedroom houses	Total number of two-bedroom flats	Total number of single applicants / couples offered a two-bedroom flat
2024/25	404 (45%)	139 (16%)	265 (30%)	29
2023/24	248 (37%)	98 (15%)	150 (23%)	6
2022/23	274	88	188 (26%)	8

The information in Graph 12(ii) suggests households on the register are indeed positively exercising choice when bidding for properties. The average wait for a two-bedroom house in 2024/25 was 2.5 years compared to 1.5 years for a two-bedroom

flat. The average wait for a two-bedroom house has slightly increased from 2.3 years in 2023/24 and 2022/23. The average wait for a two-bedroom flat has remained the same this year and last year but has increased from 1.1 years in 2022/23.

100 housing register applications were received from families already living in social housing (transfer applicants) in two-bedroom upper floor flats, compared to 147 applications in 2023/24. This is a 32% decrease, suggesting applicants are exercising their choice to remain living in two-bedroom upper floor flats.

63 households had a housing need to move with the remainder being assessed as having no housing need. This is a decrease from last year where 80 households had a housing need. This suggests applicants are suitably housed in two-bedroom upper floor flats.

Property refusals

During the year 2024/25, a 5-month sample period was used to investigate the total number of properties advertised compared to the total number of offers rejected by applicants. 221 properties were advertised during the 5-month period, with 227 property offers rejected by applicants (this includes more than one rejection per property). There were 19 rejections by applicants in Band 1. The main reasons for refusals were:

- the applicant being skipped for the property due to the applicant being offered another property on an open shortlist
- the applicant did not meet the criteria for the property, for example there were not enough bedspaces
- the applicant did not respond to the offer and/or they were no longer interested in the property for various reasons
- the property was not to the applicant's liking including the area which the applicant expressed was not suitable for them.

Addressing housing needs in the private rented sector

The Allocations Scheme enables applicants living in unsatisfactory private rented sector accommodation to move into settled social housing. In 2024/25, 531 households (12%) on the housing register were living in accommodation in the private rented sector. This remains the same percentage as in 2023/24 and 2022/23.

In 2024/25, 135 (15%) of all offers accepted were by applicants in this group. This is a decrease from last year at 18% (the same percentage in 2022/23) and the previous year (2021/22) at 22%. This is partly attributable to the increased proportion of transfer applicants successfully bidding.

Quotas

The Council can choose to make a percentage of its annual lets available to certain groups i.e. transfer applicants (existing Housing Association tenants who are tenants in the borough.)

In 2024/25 (and the previous two years) no properties were made available exclusively for transfer applicants. Table 12 below demonstrates that the percentage of lets made to general needs applicants and transfer applicants has slightly changed since last year, with a 2% increase in the lets to transfer applicants. The percentage of lets to transfer tenants has been increasing since 2021/22.

Table 12 – percentage of annual lets

Year	General Needs	Transfer
2024/25	63%	37%
2023/24	65%	35%
2022/23	65%	35%
2021/22	73%	27%
2020/21	72%	28%
2019/20	74%	26%

Who does not qualify for the housing register?

Applicants apply to the housing register, however there are occasions where these applications are not successful, with the reasons for this shown in table 13 below. In 2024/25 there was a 22% increase in the number of applications that did not become active on the housing register with the main reason being the applicant was unsuccessful in meeting the qualifying criteria.

Table 13 – reasons for unsuccessful applications

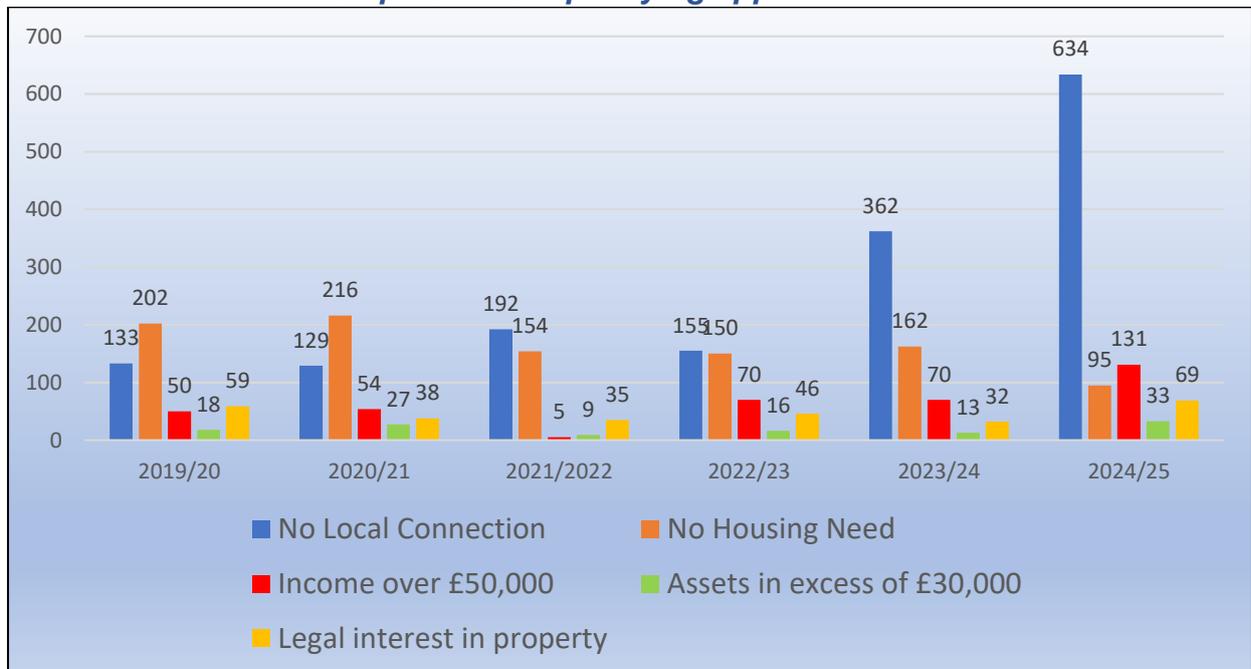
	Total number of applications that did not become active	Unsuccessful in meeting the qualifying criteria	Incomplete applications	Closed due to non-engagement
2024/25	2328	962	362	662
2023/24	1821	639	188	640

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria to qualify for inclusion on the register:

- Have a housing need, as defined within the Council’s Allocations Scheme
- Have a local connection [see below]
- Have a household income of less than £50,000 per annum [see below]
- Not have savings more than £30,000
- Not have any legal ownership of or interest in a property

There was a 34% increase in the number of applications that were unsuccessful in meeting the qualifying criteria. Graph 9 below shows the reasons why applications have been unsuccessful in meeting the qualifying criteria. The main increase again comes from applicants who did not meet the local connection criteria with 305 of the 634 applicants (48%) applying from outside of the Basingstoke and Deane borough. This has increased since last year where 140 of the 362 applicants (39%) applied from outside of the Basingstoke and Deane borough.

Graph 9 – Non-qualifying applications



Local connection

To be able to join the housing register, applicants need to meet the Council's adopted local connection criteria. This means that all applicants applying to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for social housing must be able to demonstrate a connection by way of residence, employment or the need to live in the borough to give or receive a substantial level of support **unless** they are Armed Forces applicants or applicants who are fleeing domestic abuse.

Of the 4465 households on the register, 75 applicants (45 applicants in 2023/24) were not required to meet the local connection criteria. Table 14 shows the breakdown between those applicants within the Armed Forces and those applicants fleeing domestic abuse.

Table 14 – Total number of applicants within the Armed Forces and fleeing domestic abuse

Year	Total number of households within the Armed Forces	Total number of households fleeing domestic abuse
2024/25	26	49
2023/24	17	28
2022/23	22	13

There has been an increase in the number of applicants applying from within the Armed Forces. This continues to demonstrate a positive working application of the Council's commitment to support the Armed Forces community through its Armed Forces Community Covenant.

A total of 49 applicants from the housing register, were not required to meet the local connection criteria, due to fleeing from domestic abuse. This is a substantial increase over the past two years, and this is due to the commitments the Council has made in respect of domestic abuse and its strategic objective to achieve the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. The Council was awarded with the DAHA accreditation in 2024/25.

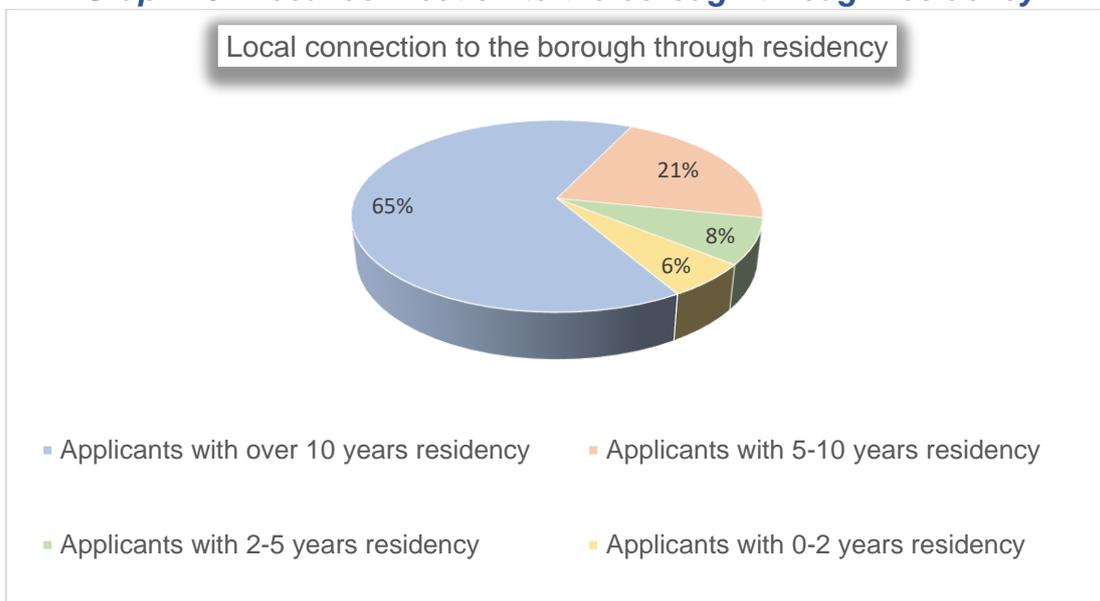
Local connection to the borough

The Allocations Scheme provides applicants who have lived in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough for more than two years, local connection to join the housing register. During 2024/25, 64% of the properties advertised were let to applicants who had lived in the borough for more than 3 years and 36% of the properties advertised were let to applicants who had lived in the borough for more than 10 years.

A 6-month sample period was used to assess how long successful applicants had lived within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough. During the 6-month sample period, a sample of 104 properties were assessed and 94% of the successful applicants for these advertised properties had lived in the borough for more than 2 years, with over 87% of these applicants having lived in the borough for more than 5 years.

In relation to the applicants who were successful in obtaining a property with less than two years residency, this was due to fleeing domestic abuse or moving to receive care and support from family, where the family had resided in the borough for more than 10 years.

Graph 10 – local connection to the borough through residency



Rural / Parish connections

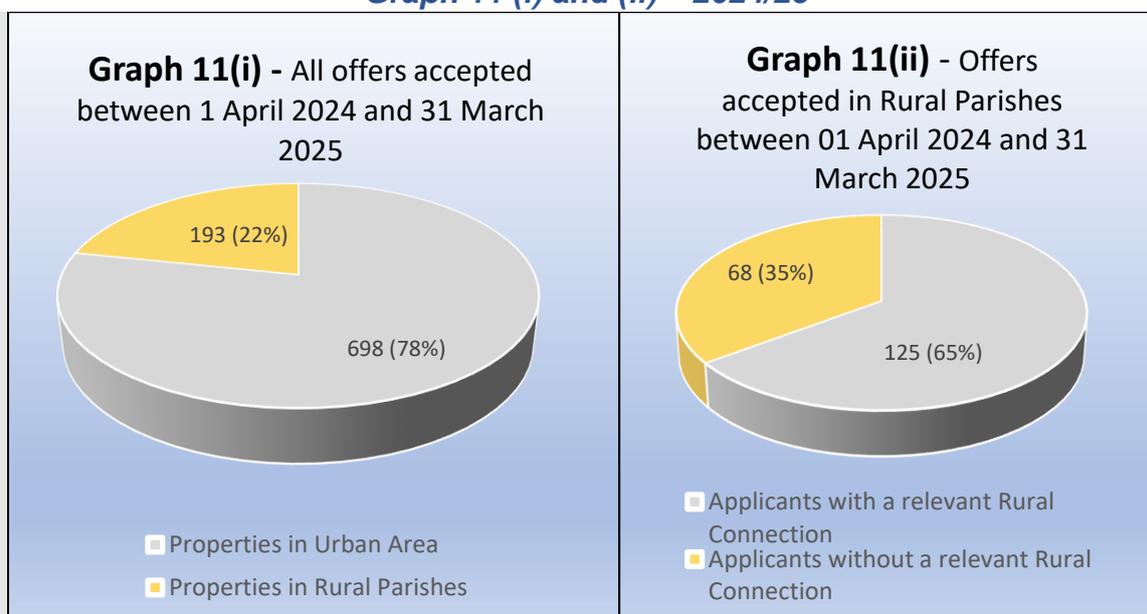
The Allocations Scheme enables priority to be given to applicants with a local connection to rural areas outside of the urban areas of the town. In 2024/25, 22% of all properties advertised for letting were in rural parishes, a 1% decrease since last year. Although, there has been a decrease in the percentage of properties let, there continues to be an increase in the percentage of properties let to households with a local connection to the parish. The primary reason lettings went to households without a parish connection was because households with a local connection to the parish did not bid. The percentage of properties available (22%) outweighs the percentage of applicants on the housing register with a local connection to a rural Parish, which totalled 17% of the total applicants on the housing register. This remains the same percentage of applicants on the housing register as last year.

Table 15 – Lettings in rural areas

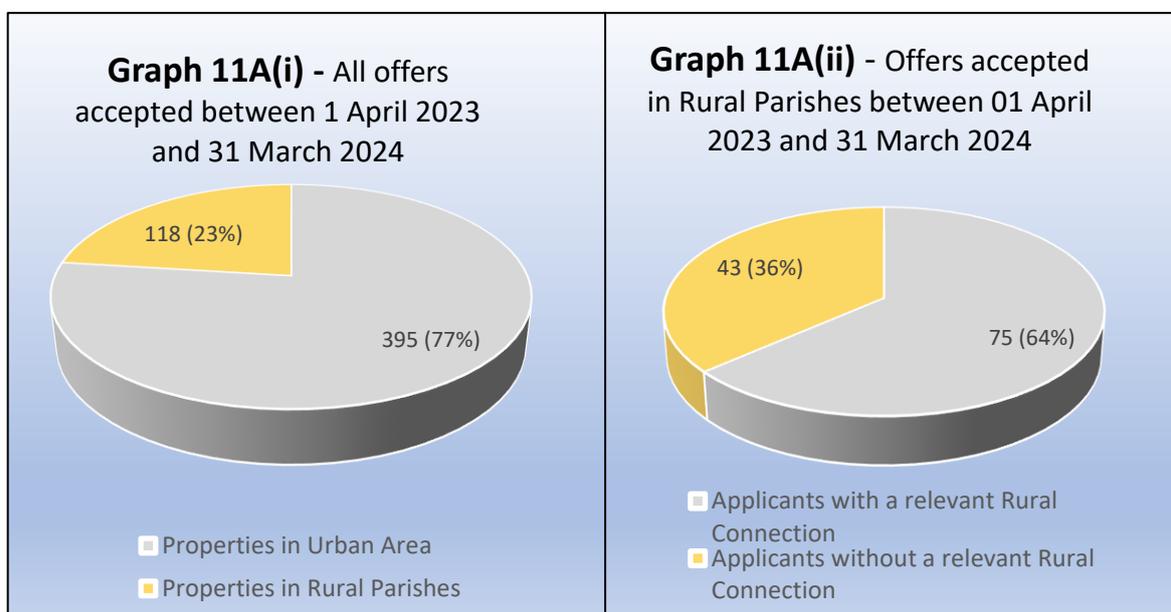
Year	Lettings advertised in rural areas	Rural properties let to households with a local connection to a parish
2024/25	22%	65%
2023/24	23%	64%
2022/23	25%	57%

Information in Graph 11(i) and (ii) and Graph 11A(i) and (ii) below demonstrate that the proportion of vacancies arising in rural areas, and the proportion of offers being accepted by applicants with a local connection to the relevant parish. There is, however, sufficient demand from the urban areas of the borough for vacancies that arise for which there is no demand (or bids) from people with rural connections.

Graph 11 (i) and (ii) – 2024/25



Graph 11A (i) and (ii) - 2023/24



Type of tenancy offered

Housing Associations can offer a variety of tenures. The type of tenancy is displayed on the property advert to allow applicants to make an informed decision when placing bids. Properties can be offered as:

- **Social Rent** – Rents set at approximately 40% of market rent and usually let on an assured tenancy (usually following a 1-year probationary tenancy) **or**
- **Affordable Rent** – Rents set at up to 80% of the rent achievable for a similar property on the open market, but should not exceed the Local Housing Allowance rates
- **Fixed Term** – Tenancies let on an assured shorthold tenancy (AST) and offered for a fixed period (usually 5 years). After the fixed term has expired, the housing association will review the tenant's circumstances.

Table 16 – rent type

Tenure	Social rent		Affordable rent	
2024/25	661 (17 were fixed term)	74%	230 (28 were fixed term)	26%
2023/24	525 (2 were fixed term)	79%	139 (22 were fixed term)	21%
2022/23	465	65%	254	35%

The significant increase and proportion of properties being advertised at social rent is to be welcomed as social rent properties are more affordable to households on lower incomes.

Between SNG and VIVID in 2024/25 a total of 278 mutual exchanges were completed in the borough, which means over 500 households secured alternative accommodation of their choosing. This is lower than last year where 661 mutual exchanges were completed. However, this is in line with the previous year (2022/23), where 287 mutual exchanges were completed. It is noted that last year SNG had invested in a new system to allow mutual exchanges to be completed quicker whilst undertaking a backlog of moves and therefore this created an anomaly in the usual levels of mutual exchanges.

When combined with the 891 properties advertised as becoming available for letting (of which 230 properties were new homes) this means that at least 1400+

households secured social housing of their choice in the borough in 2024/25. This has decreased since last year (1900+ households secured social housing of their choice) although is an increase from 2022/23 where 1200+ households secured social housing. A significant number of households are still demonstrably securing a suitable home by finding a suitable mutual exchange and demonstrates the housing register is not the only option available to facilitate a move to alternative social housing.

Waiting times

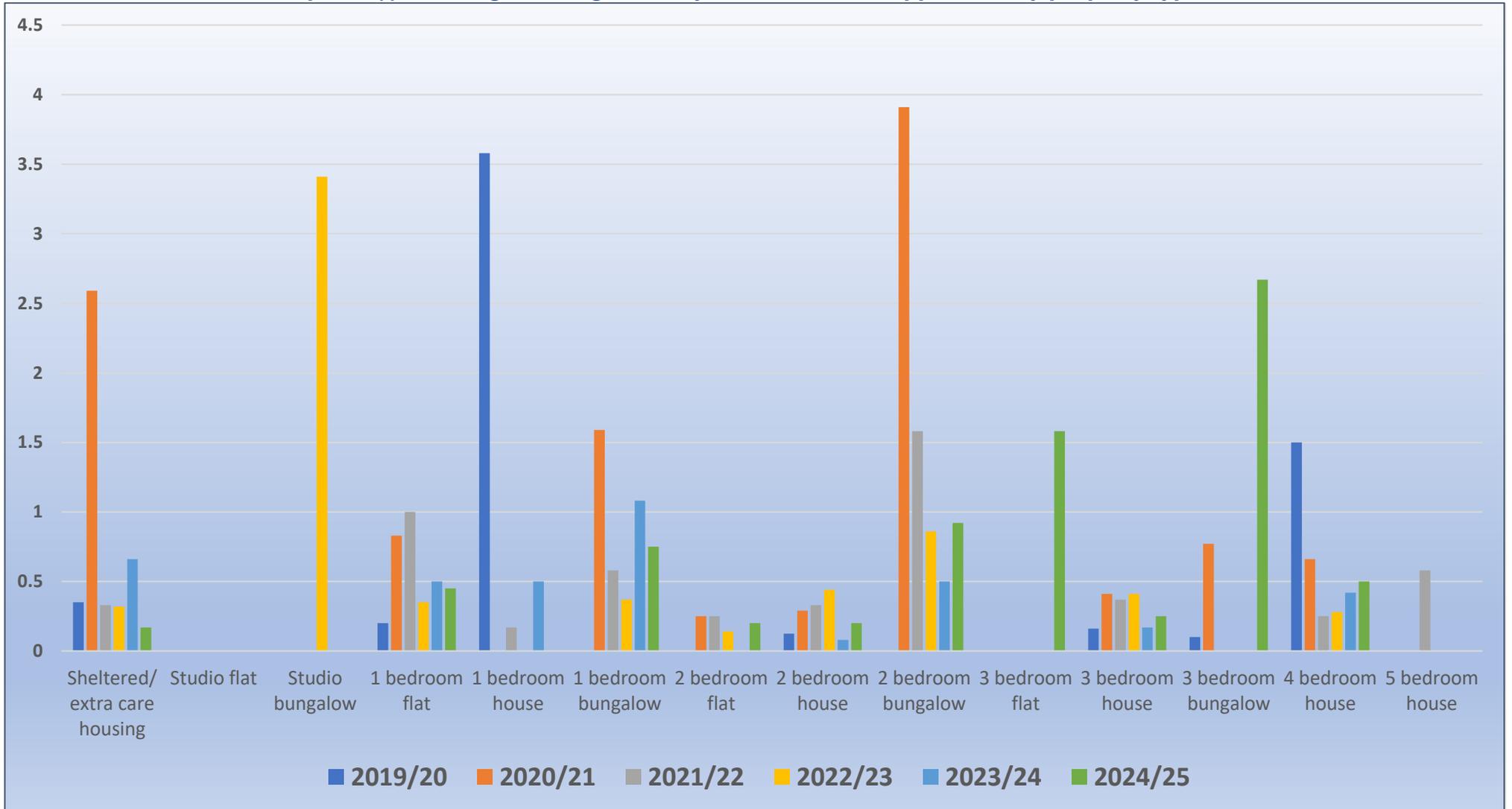
Across the borough, the demand for accommodation continues to outweigh supply.

The length of time an applicant waits for accommodation will depend on:

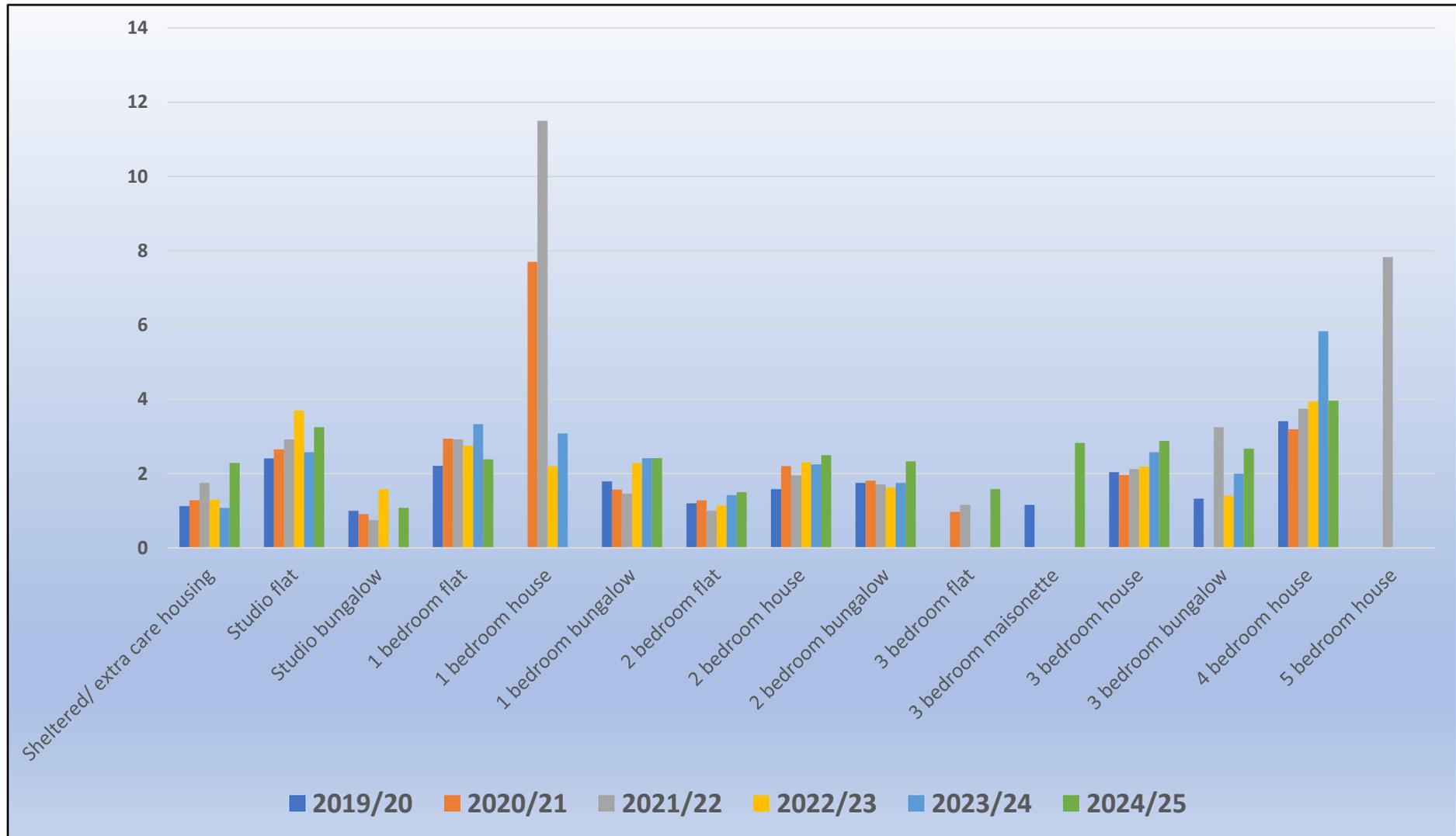
- the size and type of accommodation they require
- the location to which they wish to move
- the number of vacancies becoming available
- whether or not they choose to exercise their bid for advertised vacancies

As a general overview, the average wait for properties by size and type has tended to be as shown in Graph 12(i), (ii) and (iii) below.

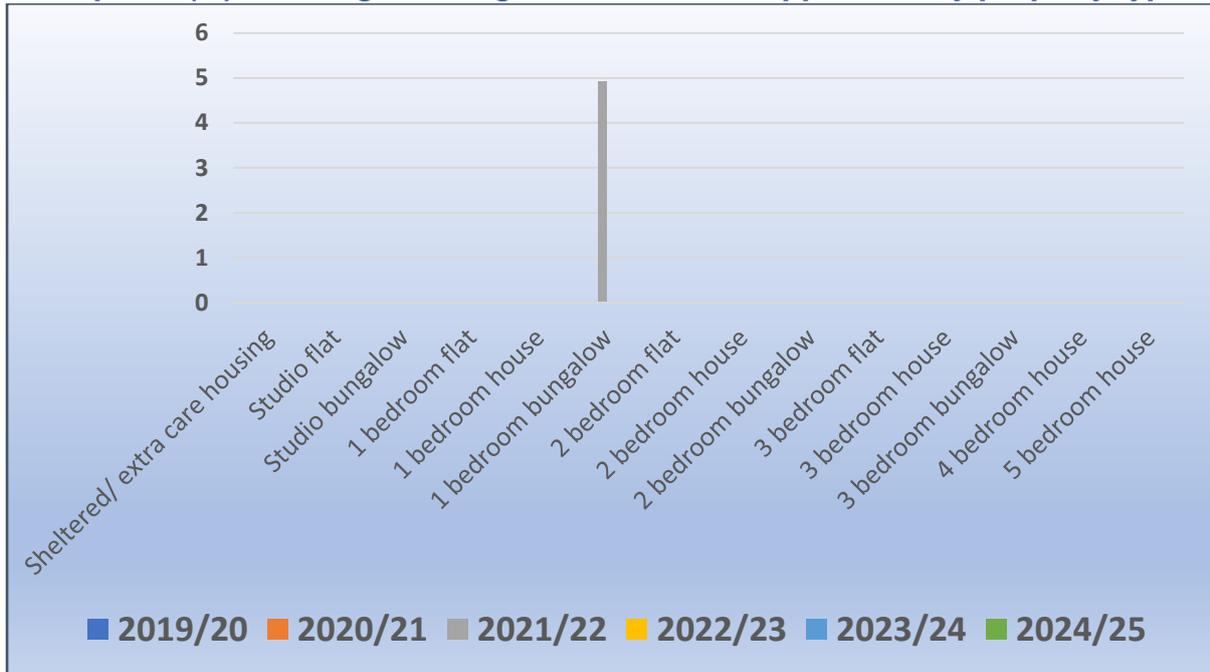
Graph 12 (i) – average waiting time in years for Band 1 Applicants by property types



Graph 12 (ii) – average waiting time in years for Band 2 Applicants by property types



Graph 12 (iii) – average waiting time for Band 3 applicants by property type



There has been a slight increase in waiting times this year for those applicants in Band 2 but a decrease in waiting times for those applicants in Band 1, apart from those properties that are in limited supply, for example 3-bedroom flats. The longest wait continues to be for four and five-bedroom properties. This is due to the limited number of properties of this size becoming available.

In 2024/25, there were 15 4-bedroom properties advertised and no 5-bedroom properties. This compares to 10 4-bedroom properties in 2023/24 and 16 4-bedroom properties in 2022/23. There have been no 5-bedroom properties advertised since 2021/22.

Requests for reviews

All applicants have the statutory right to request a review of any aspect of their housing application assessment.

There were 11 requests for reviews during 2024/25, a decrease since 2023/24 (at 11 reviews). In seven (64%) of these cases the Council's original decision was upheld, compared to 54% last year. This demonstrates the robustness of the original decision made by Officers. In two cases the decision was reversed following receipt of additional information, one decision was overturned due to a change in legislation and policy and one applicant withdrew their request for a review due to a change of

circumstances. The review that was overturned due to a change in legislation related to the Armed Forces amendment.

Table 16 – rent type

Year	Total number of requests for reviews	Total number of decisions where Council's original decision is upheld
2024/25	11	7 (64%)
2023/24	13	7 (54%)
2022/23	22	11 (50%)

Right to Move

This refers to statutory provisions introduced by Government in 2015 for social tenants in England who need to move to avoid hardship because the tenant works (or has been offered work) in the borough of the authority into whose are they wish to move and has a genuine intention to take up the offer.

From June 2015 levels of Right to Move applications have been monitored to inform any recommendations to apply a quota for such cases. This is in accordance with statutory guidance from Government.

Since 2022/23, there have been no Right to Move applications received.

Legislative Changes impacting Allocations Schemes

Income amendment

In February 2025, Cabinet approved a change to our Allocations Scheme in relation to applicants who qualify for inclusion on the housing register. At paragraph 5.3, the text in red shown below was added to the Allocations Scheme in relation to which applicants will normally be a qualifying person:

5 Applicants who qualify for inclusion on the housing register

- 5.3 An applicant will normally be a qualifying person and therefore qualify to join the housing register and for an allocation under the Council's Allocations Scheme, if they:

- Have a household (applicant and/or partner) income of less than £50,000 per annum (prior to any deductions, inclusive of benefits but excluding Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments) and/or capital and savings of less than £30,000, or
- **Are a family with permanently resident children and have an income of less than £60,000 per annum (prior to any deductions, inclusive of benefits but excluding Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independent Payments) and/or capital and savings of less than £30,000**
- Exceptions may be made for people with more than this amount of savings and assets and will be made in respect of any lump sum received by a member of the Armed Forces as compensation for an injury or disability
- Are in housing need (as defined in section 12.)

The income threshold remains that households applying with an income below £50,000 meet the qualifying criteria. However, the change relates to family households with permanently resident children, that have an income of between £50,000 and £60,000 per annum (prior to any deductions, inclusive of benefits but excluding Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independent Payments), meet the qualifying criteria.

Armed Forces amendment

On 27 November 2024, MHCLG issued regulations to exempt all former members of the regular Armed Forces from any local connection tests applied by councils in England, to facilitate their access to social housing. The regulations came into effect on 18 December 2024. As a result of this, the Council amended its Allocations Scheme in relation to social housing to ensure the Council adheres to this regulation.

This removed the five-year limit to ensure that no veterans of the regular Armed Forces need to meet a local connection test regardless of when they last served. The amendment also widened the provision from bereaved spouse to include former spouse. The amendment was approved by Cabinet in March 2025 and the amendments are depicted below in red:

5 Applicants who qualify for inclusion on the housing register

5.2 To have a local connection to the borough of Basingstoke and Deane you will need to meet one of the following criteria:

- The applicant is serving **or has served** in the **Regular aArmed fForces**

- ~~• The applicant is a former member of, the armed forces, and is not currently residing in the district (but had previously resided in the borough for 2 years, immediately prior to being posted in the armed forces.)~~
- ~~• The applicant is a former member of the armed forces who is applying for social housing within 5 years of discharge.~~
- The applicant is a **bereaved former** spouse or civil partner of a **serving** member of the **aArmed fForces** ~~or a seriously injured reservist who is either currently employed or resident in the borough.~~
- **Serving or former members of the Reserve Armed Forces who are suffering from a serious injury, illness or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their service**

12 Prioritising Applications for Housing

12.1 Allocations for nominations to housing are made according to a banding scheme, consisting of 3 bands. An applicant's banding will be determined by an assessment of whether they attract reasonable preference and are therefore in housing need.

- Band 1 – applicants who have been assessed as qualifying for reasonable preference and have been granted additional preference in recognition of their urgent need to move.

Armed Services personnel with a critical housing need (as above)

(a) This category will include:

- Serving members of the armed forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability as a result of their service.
- Applicants who were formerly serving members of the armed forces.
- Serving members or former members of the Reserve Forces who need to move as a result of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service.
- **Bereaved Former** spouses and civil partners of members of the armed forces, who are having to leave services family accommodation following the death of their spouse or partner.