



## **LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF PRIORITY FOR AFFORDABLE DWELLING PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS**

As approved by the Elected Members of Longford County Council .

### **Introduction:**

The purpose of this Scheme of Priority is to set out the manner in which affordable dwelling purchase arrangements are to be made available by Longford County Council, and the methodology that will be applied to determine the order of priority to be accorded to eligible households where the demand for such arrangements exceeds the number of dwellings available.

This Scheme of Priority is made under Section 11 of the Affordable Housing Act 2021 (No. 25 of 2021) and is in accordance with S.I. No. 20/2023 - Affordable Housing Regulations 2023 and S.I. No. 21/2023 - Affordable Housing (No. 2) Regulations 2023.

Eligibility of households will be assessed in accordance with Section 10 of the Affordable Housing Act 2021 (No. 25 of 2021) and S.I. No. 20/2023 – Affordable Housing Regulations 2023. Applications will also be assessed in accordance with Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 21/2023 - Affordable Housing (No. 2) Regulations 2023.

### **Part 1: Manner in which Affordable Dwellings will be made Available**

1. Where the Council intends to make dwellings available in a particular location or locations for affordable dwelling purchase arrangements in accordance with the Act, it will:
  - 1.1. Calculate, in accordance with relevant legislation, the relevant income limits for the purposes of determining a household's eligibility for each type of dwelling that will be made available.
  - 1.2. In advance of the date when the particular properties are scheduled to be completed, advertise the availability of the properties in at least one newspaper circulating within the administrative area and on the Council's website.
  - 1.3. The information that will be provided in the advertisement will include:-
    - 1.3.1. the location/s, numbers and details of the type/types of dwellings that are to be made available.
    - 1.3.2. that the dwellings shall generally only be available to first-time buyers, with certain exceptions.



- 1.3.3.** that the dwellings will be sold at a price that is lower than market value (subject to a minimum price to be established by the local authority and in accordance with regulation 6 of S.I. 21 of 2023), and the Council will take a percentage equity share in the dwelling equal to the difference between the market value of the dwelling and the price paid by the purchaser, expressed as a percentage of the market value of the dwelling.
  - 1.3.4.** that the Council's equity may be subsequently redeemed by the purchaser by making payments to the Council (minimum repayment amount applies, as per section 7 of S.I. No. 21/2023 – Affordable Housing (No. 2) Regulations 2023).
  - 1.3.5.** that the dwellings will be made available to eligible applicants in accordance with the Council's scheme of priority; date and time of application will be one of the criteria on which eligible applications will be prioritised. The public will be informed where the scheme may be obtained.
  - 1.3.6.** the minimum prices to be paid by eligible purchasers for dwellings and the typical gross income limits for eligibility for each type of dwelling.
  - 1.3.7.** the manner in which an application can be made, including where the application form and further details may be obtained, the date from which the Council will accept applications, documentation required to accompany the application form and the closing date for receipt of such applications.
- 2.** Applications will only be considered for the dwellings which are the subject of an advertisement. A household must submit a separate application for each advertisement where it wishes to be considered for the properties in the advertisement.

## **Part 2: Order of Priority for Eligible Households**

- 3.** In cases where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of dwellings available for purchase, this scheme shall be used to determine the order of priority for all applicants.
- 4.** An order of application will be assigned to applications received before the closing date. Applications that appear to meet the eligibility criteria, on the basis of the information supplied by the applicant household, will be considered eligible for the purpose of applying this scheme of priorities, in accordance with S.I. No. 20/2023 – Affordable Housing Regulations 2023, subject to later confirmation through the production of documentary evidence in relation to eligibility.
- 5.** The Council will then decide which of the available types of dwelling would adequately cater for the housing needs of the applicant households. More than one



type of dwelling might be deemed to cater adequately to the accommodation needs of a particular house, so that an applicant household may be prioritised for more than one type of dwelling where they indicated such interest in their application form.

**5.1.**Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for which applications have been accepted, the priority of eligible applicants will be on the following basis:-

<b>Dwelling Type</b>	<b>Meets accommodation needs of</b>
Two-bedroom dwelling	Households of at least 2 persons
Three-bedroom dwelling	Households of at least 2 persons
Four-bedroom dwelling	Households of at least 3 persons

**5.2.**Where having applied the criterion in Section 5.1, the number of eligible applicants still exceeds the number of dwellings for which applications were made, priority shall be given to the eligible applicants in the date and time order that their applications were received.

**5.3.**With regards to other dwelling types not provided for under the criterion in Section 5.1, where the number of eligible applicants also exceeds the number of dwellings for which applications were made, priority shall be given to the eligible applicants in the date and time order that their applications were received.

**6.** Furthermore, in relation to 30 per cent of the dwellings the subject of applications accepted under Regulations 5(1) & 5(2) of S.I. No 21/2023 - Affordable Housing (No. 2) Regulations 2023, the Council will prioritise households in the following manner:-

**6.1.**Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for sale, the housing authority shall in relation to any particular type of dwelling, give priority to households whose accommodation needs would be adequately catered for by the type of dwelling in question as per section 5.1 above.

**6.2.**If, following the prioritisation of applicants based on household size as per section 5.1 above, it remains that the number of prioritised applicants still exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for sale, the Council will further prioritise households as follows:-

**6.3.**Priority to be given to eligible households whose current address as given in the application form is within the Municipal District ([Link to map of MD here](#)) of the relevant affordable scheme or work within 10km of the development and whose current residential address is within County Longford.



- 6.4.** Where having applied the above criteria in Section 5.1 and Section 6.3, the number of eligible applications still exceeds the number of dwellings for which applications were made, priority shall be given to the eligible applicants in the date and time order that their applications were received.
- 7.** In addition to submitting evidence in relation to a household's eligibility criteria, additional documentation may be requested from applicants to assess their place in the order of priority under the criteria set out in this Scheme of Priority. This request to be made and satisfied prior to an Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangement being offered.