

**Responses to Questions Received on Wiltshire Council's New Housing Allocation Policy at 14 January 2015 Malmesbury Area Board**

**1. The number of applicants in each band as at 3 Feb when the new policy comes into action**

– As at 20 February the figures are as follows:

Band 1 - 123

Band 2 - 4

Band 3 - 397

Band 4 - 377

Open Market Register - 129

However the Housing team are still dealing with high levels of enquiries in relation to Housing applications as a result of the implementation of the new policy, and these figures are constantly changing as new applicants are applying and existing applicants are still in the process of updating their applications and providing information requested. The high level of enquiries would indicate that not all applicants have finalised their applications to the register under the new policy. Over the coming few months we will start to see a more accurate assessment of the figures on the register. These figures should not be used in isolation when considering the identified need for affordable housing, as the register is only one method to help identify need.

**2. The number of applicants applying as a result of the bedroom tax-** As at 20 February 2015 there are 3 applicants registered on H4W (In Band 2) as a result of under-occupying their social rented property by 2 or more bedrooms and suffering financial hardship as a result of the under-occupation.

**3. The number of households affected by the bedroom tax.** - During the first six months of 2014/15, 856 Discretionary Housing payments have been made, of which 709 were payments in relation to the under-occupancy reduction. The number of households affected by reductions to Housing Benefit as a result of the under-occupancy cuts stood at 2378 in December 2014. However not all households will be experiencing financial hardship as a result of these cuts.