

Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No 10/16

Date: September 2018

Briefing Paper to: All Members of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: At the December 2016 meeting of the Committee Members requested a briefing paper detailing the percentage of immigrants included in the figures for the number of households living in temporary accommodation and how this compared to the previous year.

Heading: **Temporary Accommodation**

Background

Eligibility for help from local authorities is defined within the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). Advice from the Shelter website explains that;

“The council call this being 'eligible for assistance' and you usually qualify if you are:

- *a British or Irish citizen living in the UK*
- *an EU citizen working in the UK or with permanent residence*
- *from outside the EU but allowed to claim benefits*

Other people from abroad may qualify so check the [immigration and residence rules](#).

If you've recently lived abroad, you may need to show you're now settled in the UK, even if you're British”

The legislation ensures that those who are only in the country legally and have access to public funds will be eligible for support.

Statistics relating to ethnicity are collected in relation to people who have approached the authority as homeless and have had a decision made on their case on a quarterly basis.

From 01 October and 31 December 2016 a total of 14 (from 151 concluded) applications, that were either UK nationals returning from abroad or a foreign

national had a decision made on their application. Seven were from European Economic Area (EEA) states and further seven were from countries outside of the EEA.

In comparison, from 01 October and 31 December 2015 a total of 33 (from 238 concluded) applications, that were either UK nationals returning from abroad or a foreign national had a decision made on their application. 21 were from European Economic Area (EEA) states and further 12 were from countries outside of the EEA.

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