

CLG / LGA Commission on the Council Role in New Housebuilding

Purpose

To examine the scope for further development of the council role and capacity to facilitate and deliver new housing supply to meet local housing needs to sustain economic growth in the context of changing market conditions.

Context

Local authorities have a key role to play in facilitating and bringing about economic recovery and sustainable growth in their areas, in particular through their housing roles. The landscape in delivering housing is changing rapidly: we need to consider different methods of finance, delivery and partnership to meet the challenge of today's economic conditions; the HCA as a new delivery body is developing a new approach to place-making involving a single conversation with local authorities to influence and help shape its interventions in local areas; financing for council housing could be radically reformed on a self financing basis; and with local authorities themselves having a strategic responsibility and increasingly looking to bring their own resources to bear in providing housing themselves and with other parties.

Terms of Reference

In the context of sustaining economic growth and changing market conditions:

- Examine the extent to which councils have the tools to enable and facilitate delivery of new house building (directly or through others) within their current powers and responsibilities. As part of this, identify barriers to delivery and explore the incentives for delivery.
- Assess councils' appetite for and achievements in leading on, delivering, or working in partnership to bring about new housing of all tenures and how this could develop in future.
- Consider ways of using local authority assets and land to deliver house building in partnership with the private sector, housing associations and local people themselves

- Examine capacity within councils to lead on development and advise how councils' knowledge and skills for delivering and facilitating development can be strengthened further.

Working method

Commission – jointly appointed and supported by CLG and LGA Group, with support from HCA, and will be composed of relevant independent experts and Chaired by Lord Richard Best. It will be able to commission analytical work as its members determine. CLG to provide secretariat and resources to support its work.

Timing

Report to CLG/LGA by Summer 2010.

Members

Chair

Lord Richard Best President, Local Government Association

Members

Gillian Beasley Chief Executive, Peterborough City Council

Steve Douglas Director, douglaswood and former Chief Executive, Housing Corporation

Jamie Kerr Director of Regeneration and Education, John Laing Projects and Developments

Mike Owen Special Housing Adviser, Cornwall Council

Nick Raynsford MP

Joanne Roney OBE Chief Executive, Wakefield Council

Barry Rowland Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council

Tony Travers Director, LSE London

Steve Wilcox Centre for Housing Policy, University of York

Ex-officio

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