

Consultation Publications Websites Dec 2009

Consultations

Title **Shaping the Future of Care Together**
 Outline CIH's response to the Department of Health's Green Paper Shaping The Future Of Care Together is now available to download. The Green Paper sets out the government's vision for a new care and support system to meet the challenges currently faced and the need for long-term reform.
 Web link http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_102732.pdf
 Launch date 14 July 2009
 Deadline date 13 Nov 2009
 Link to any further info <http://www.cih.org/policy/Resp-ShapingFutureOfCare-Nov09.pdf>

Title **Housing and Regeneration Act 2008: Summary of Responses**
 Outline CLG have published a summary document of responses to the consultation on the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (registration of Local Authorities) Order 2009.
 Web link <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/crossdomainorderresponse>
 Launch date August 09
 Deadline date Oct 09
 Link to any further info

Title **Directions to the Tenant Services Authority: Summary of Responses**
 Outline CLG have published a summary document of responses to the consultation on the draft directions proposed to be given by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to social housing regulator (known as TSA) under section 197 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. The original consultation ran from July to October.
 Web link <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/crossdomainorder>
 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/tsadirectionresponses>
 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/tsadirections>
 Launch date July 2009
 Deadline date Oct 2009

Title **UK Parliament Select Committee Enquiry Into Local Housing Allowance**
 Outline Views are being sought by the DWP from organisations and individuals on a number of aspects of Local Housing Allowance, including the impact of direct payments to claimants on both claimants and landlords and whether the mechanisms are in place to help Housing Benefit Departments identify and assess vulnerable claimants.
 Web link http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/work_and_pensions_committee/wappn14102009.cfm
 Launch date 14 October 2009
 Deadline date 16 November 2009

Title **Monitoring the Impact of Current Market Conditions on Housing**
 Outline EERA survey of Local Authorities - November 2009. We are about to launch the second survey of local authorities on the impact of current market conditions. For the first time, we are inviting local authorities to complete the questionnaire online. For your information, please be aware the below email was sent to local authorities earlier this afternoon to give them advance notice that a link to the online survey will be emailed to them shortly by SQW Consulting who are managing the analysis. We have compiled the spreadsheet of contacts from the contact details provided by LAs in their responses to the last survey. If you would like a list of who the email and survey has been sent to in your sub-region, please let me know. With regard to the sub-regional perspective provided by co-ordinators for the last survey, this will be form a separate exercise. An email containing the weblink to the sub-regional survey will be sent to you by K.Fox at SQW Consulting (kfox@sqw.co.uk)
 At the moment we plan to do another survey at the end of January but I am unable to confirm thereafter as EERA ceases to exist after March 31st 2010. As last time, a report of findings from the Quarter 2 (09-10) survey will be circulated to all participating authorities and placed on EERA's website.
 Web link Send to individual districts
 Launch date 11 Nov 2009
 Deadline date 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 11th December, 2009.
 Link to any further info Report form first survey; <http://www.eera.gov.uk/News/newsletters/housing-market-update-for-the-east-of-england/housing-market-update-east-england/>

Publications and announcements

Title	New Guidance on Unlawful Subletting
Outline	To coincide with a co-ordinated anti-fraud drive, Government published yesterday new guidance - written by the Chartered Institute of Housing - which emphasises the crucial role landlords play in tackling unlawful subletting and occupancy.
Web link	http://housing.cih.co.uk/eazines/practice-alerts/documents/UnlawfulsublettingGoodPracticeGuidance.pdf
Supporting link	http://housing.cih.co.uk/eazines/practice-alerts/UnlawfulSubletting.htm
Date published	Dec 2009
Title	A new generation of council housing
Outline	A new report highlights the reforms needed to deliver homes. The study, commissioned by Unison from Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), warned 'clear guidance' is needed from the Government to provide 'more certainty for the longer term', as well as support for developing house-building capacity – with recommendations APSE develop forums to share knowledge. Local benefits should be outlined too prior to building – using Community Benefits Clauses. The report also says the HCA should provide 'more support' to councils struggling with the bureaucracy of funding opportunities. Housing Minister John Healey said: 'Councils have a central role in providing the homes this country needs. I recognise they want the freedom to take the lead on meeting local housing needs.'
Web link	http://www.localgov.co.uk/index.cfm?method=news.detail&id=83640
Date published	11 Nov 2009
Title	Financial Inclusion: Prevention Before Cure
Outline	According to the Financial Services Authority, groups more likely to be affected by financial exclusion include households on a low income, single parents, social housing tenants, refugees and asylum seekers, over-60s, young adults, people with disabilities, and homeless people. The Chartered Institute of Housing, with funding from the Financial Services Authority and Barclays, has a Financial Inclusion Advisor who can offer support, advice and assistance to social housing providers to develop or review their financial inclusion strategy. For access to this free service, please contact the Financial Inclusion Advisor for your region, Paul O'Connor (England and Wales) on 07852 354170
Date published	Nov 2009
Title	Homelessness in the UK
Outline	At this time of year public focus turns to a number of issues including homelessness. Homelessness is one of the most distressing and visible of all social problems, and the treatment of homeless people is often viewed as emblematic of a society's commitment to social justice. Homelessness in the UK examines the contemporary nature of homelessness and responses to it. It is research-based but policy-focused, considering not only the 'problems' associated with homelessness, but also the 'solutions' that have been identified as effective means to prevent and/or address homelessness.
Web link	http://www.cih.org/publications/pub129.htm
Date published	June 2009
Title	Commission on Co-operative and Mutual Housing Report Published
Outline	The Commission on Co-operative and Mutual Housing has published its final report. Set up in 2008, the Commission was tasked with researching the English co-operative and mutual housing sector and to draw conclusions about its relevance to national housing strategy in the current environment.
Web link	Full report: http://www.ccmh.coop/news/launch-final-report
Summary	http://www.ccmh.coop/sites/default/files/Commission%20Report.pdf
Date published	26 November
Title	No One Left Out - One Year On
Outline	Considerable progress has been made towards the goal of eradicating rough sleeping by 2012 over the past 12 months according to a new report. The report charts the achievements against the action plan set out in last year's rough sleeping strategy <i>No One Left Out</i> .
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1396766
Date published	27 Nov 2009
Title	Fuel Poverty Project Runs Out Of Money
Outline	Eaga, the organisation running the government's Warm Front scheme, has warned households who have applied for help they would have to wait six months following unprecedented demand and cuts to funding.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/dec/02/fuel-poverty-warm-front
Date published	2 Dec 2009

Title	Find and Compare Landlords
Outline	The Tenant Services Authority has launched a website enabling tenants to compare their landlord's services and performance with other landlords in their area. The site will also be of interest to housing professionals as a tool to aid in stock rationalisation. No registration or login is required to use the site.
Web link	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/nav.14538
Press release.....	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.19868/changeNav/14570
Date published.....	1 December 2009
Title	Local Authorities to Drive Low Carbon Agenda
Outline	Local government has a crucial role to play in delivering steep carbon cuts, with many councils being already at the forefront of leading the way in combating climate change. In a speech at the Local Action on Climate Change Summit, Communities Secretary John Denham outlined the government's plans to enhance local authorities' role by giving them greater autonomy and powers to drive low carbon living.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1394658
Date published.....	26 November 2009
Title	Fund to Support Masterplanning Rural Communities
Outline	This CLG prospectus implements the commitment given in the Government's response to the Matthew Taylor Review "to develop the Review's suggestion of a competition, particularly for rural authorities wanting to provide growth over an extended period in one or more of their market towns". Through a competitive bidding process local planning authorities who are seeking to accommodate new development in rural locations can bid for technical masterplanning and urban design support.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ruralfundprospectus
Date published.....	26 Nov 2009
Title	Working Hostels
Outline	A new model of service provision for hostel residents ready to take up work has been sketched out in a short CLG paper. Working hostels are anticipated to be a stepping-stone enabling residents to move on from rough sleeping into work or into alternative housing pathways.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/workinghostelsmodel
Date published.....	27 Nov 2009
Title	Latest Housing Statistical Releases
Outline	Figures released by CLG show that in 2008/09, a total of 130,000 cases of homelessness prevention or relief have been taken place outside the statutory homelessness framework. It is the first time such figures have been published. The latest local authority housing statistics for 2008/09 which includes the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix and Business Plan Statistical Appendix have also been released. Statistics cover local authority housing stock, households on local authority housing waiting lists, participation in choice-based letting schemes, local authority lettings, decent homes delivery and the programme of work on housing revenue account stock.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200809 http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200809
Date published.....	26 Nov 2009
Title	House Prices Continue to Rise
Outline	House prices have risen for the seventh consecutive month, with the average home now costing 162,764, the Nationwide Building Society reports. Over the last twelve months, the price for a typical home increased by 2.7%. Prices are now at similar levels to early 2006.
Web link	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8387203.stm
Date published.....	1 Dec 2009
Title	Second Wave of Eco-Towns Announced
Outline	Following the announcement in the summer of the four locations to develop the first wave of eco-towns, the government has announced that a further nine local authorities are considering plans to develop new communities to the eco-town standards. For this reason and extra £5m has been made available to support local authorities in developing plans. Northstowe is on the list
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1399284
Date published.....	1 Dec 2009
Title	New Guide on Tackling Overcrowding and Underoccupation
Outline	The Tenant Services Authority have published guidance for landlords on tackling overcrowding and underoccupation. The guidance looks at how reviewing allocations schemes, use of the private rented sector, incentive schemes and joint working can be effective in addressing these issues.
Web link	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/pdf/Overcrowding_and_under-occupation.pdf
Date published.....	Oct 2009

Title	Treasury Pressure As Council House Building Grows
Outline	Demand to build council homes is far exceeding government expectations, putting pressure on the Treasury to release extra cash as part of the spending review next month. The pressure amounts to an end to the 20- year effective moratorium on council house building, amid a new cross-party consensus to build council homes.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/nov/22/council-housing-demand-treasury-funding
Date published	22 Nov 2009
Title	The Guardian Future of Housing Summit: A New Era for Better Outcomes
Outline	The Guardian Future of Housing Summit is once again bringing together the most influential figures from across the sector for networking, insight and debate. Join us on 25 January at this agenda-setting event to address the future for the housing sector and hear from John Healey MP, Grant Shapps MP, Sarah Teather MP, Sir Bob Kerlake, and Lord Richard Best alongside thoughts from leading housing associations, think-tanks and industry bodies, including Peabody, Gentoo, NHPAU, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Demos. CIH Chief Executive Sarah Webb will be speaking about innovation in the sector at this high profile event. Book before 4 December for a 15% discount.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/futurehousing
Date published	Event: 25 Jan 2010
Title	Mortgage Repossessions Can Be Predicted At an Early Stage
Outline	New research undertaken by the Chartered Institute of Housing's consultancy arm ConsultCIH has produced a unique insight into the characteristics and circumstances of households faced with repossession. The report has identified demographic patterns among borrowers which could be used to target information more effectively at vulnerable homeowners. It also found that more effective targeting is necessary because around 40% of homeowners don't turn up at court for their possession hearing - but if they did there was a strong chance that they would keep their home. It found that many homeowners do not turn up at court because they believe that the hearing is a forgone conclusion. It concludes that local advice agencies - including county court advice desks - are very effective at preventing possessions but they must be more sophisticated in the ways they attract vulnerable people to use their services.
Web link	http://www.consultcih.co.uk/documents/final-repossession-nov09.pdf
Date published	Oct 2009
Title	Landlords Challenge TSA Value for Money Standard
Outline	Councils and housing associations are concerned about a value-for-money standard that is set to form part of the new regulatory framework for landlords and have accused the TSA of going beyond its remit.
Web link	http://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2009/11/tenants-authority-acting-beyond-its-remit/
Date published	19 Nov 2009
Title	Extra Care Schemes and Social Wellbeing
Outline	A new research report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looking into extra care schemes shows that good communal facilities and a diverse range of organised activities with adequate staff time resources to provide support for activities are necessary for the social wellbeing of residents.
Web link	http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/well-being-extra-care-schemes
Date published	19 Nov 2009
Title	Bi-Annual Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Sites Published
Outline	The six-monthly survey of gypsy and traveller sites in England has been published. The count records the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. Data from this survey was collated in July 2009.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjul2009
Date published	24 Nov 2009
Title	Continued Government Support For Struggling Homeowners
Outline	Housing Minister John Healey has announced that efforts to help households facing mortgage difficulties would be stepped up with an extension of free impartial advice to homeowners and tightening of rules to ensure repossession is always the last resort and boosting the backstop help for those families most in need.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1380930
.....	Speech: http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/cmlconference2009
.....	Website: http://mortgagehelp.direct.gov.uk/
Date published	12 Nov 2009

Title	TSA Sets the Scene for a New World of Social Housing Regulation
Outline	The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) has launched its statutory consultation A new regulatory framework for social housing in England which sets out the standards for landlords which will form the core of how the TSA regulates social housing in England. The standards focus on six areas of housing management: tenant involvement and tenant empowerment; home (covering repairs and maintenance); tenancy (including lettings and rent); neighbourhood and community (including anti-social behaviour); value for money; and governance and financial viability. The new standards will mean a greater focus on issues that matter most to tenants, giving them more opportunities to have their say and to receive more feedback from their landlord. Landlords will have increased responsibilities to work closer with tenants and will form a co-regulatory relationship with their tenants and the regulator. CIH has published a series of briefings to help the sector to prepare for the coming regulatory framework and will be consulting widely with members on the TSA's proposals. Consultation runs until 5 February 2010, and the new regulatory standards will come into force on 1 April.
Web link	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.19715/changeNav/14570
Homepage for regulation:	http://www.cih.org/policy/pol_them.php?ID=30
Date published	12 Nov 2009

Title	CML Sees Encouraging Mortgage Repossessions Data
Outline	Figures published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders show there were 11,700 repossessions over the past three months, which although a small increase on the previous quarter, represents 8% fewer people losing their homes than in the first three months of 2009. The CML have revised their forecast for the number of repossessions this year to 48,000 from earlier revised predictions of 65,000 (down from the original estimate of 75,000) in recognition of lender forbearance, government measures and the beneficial effect of continuing low interest rates which are helping most borrowers facing difficulty to keep their homes.
Web link	http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2456
Date published	12 Nov 2009

Title	Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act Passed
Outline	Councils will now have a key role to play in strengthening the local economy, increase jobs and skills, tackle housing shortages and improve infrastructure following Royal Assent of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1382694
Date published	13 Nov 2009

Title	Tensions Between National And Local Policy Hinder Progress
Outline	A report produced for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Housing and Neighbourhoods Monitor has reported that there are tensions between national and local policy which hinder meeting the government's build targets. The report also highlights how far policy goals are actually being achieved in practice.
Web link	Report: http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/housing-neighbourhoods-monitor Website; http://www.hnm.org.uk/
Date published	17 Nov 2009

Title	Buy to Let Market Grows For the First Time in Two Years
Outline	Data published by the Council of Mortgage lenders showed that the Buy to Let market grew in the third quarter for the first time in two years with lending at 2.1 billion being 10% higher than in the previous three months.
Web link	http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2459
Date published	12 Nov 2009

Title	Rural Housing Crisis Is Pricing People Out
Outline	The Guardian reports on how falling house prices have affected rural areas less severely, but many people remain priced out of rural homeownership, including keyworkers and many others on average incomes. Meanwhile, rural shared ownership properties are lying empty as lenders are reluctant to provide mortgages on shared ownership properties due to a perceived higher risk.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2009/nov/18/rural-housing-crisis
Date published	18 Nov 2009

Title	Overcrowding Law Campaign
Outline	In the wake of recent support from MPs for a parliamentary motion to reduce overcrowding in the housing of chickens, Shelter have launched a campaign to update statutory housing overcrowding legislation, unchanged since 1935, calling the present law 'bird-brained'.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/nov/10/overcrowding-children-chickens http://england.shelter.org.uk/what_you_can_do/campaigning/sign_our_overcrowding_petition
Date published	10 Nov 2009

Title	Housing Knowledge
Outline	As the recession deepens, councils confront a variety of challenges - none more acute than those experienced in the housing sector. Access the LGA group new housing resource, on IDEA's Housing Knowledge website to find out information on the housing market and the economy and how they are affected by the recession, how to deal with local authority's strategic housing role and lead your community out of the recession. Read invaluable case studies from councils working innovatively with existing housing stock, empty homes and the private rented sector, while looking to provide new, affordable homes in these harsh economic times.
Web link	http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=11901555
Date published	23 Nov 2009

Title	Mortgage Approvals Resume Upward Trend
Outline	Mortgage approvals rose 2% in September, following a seasonal dip in August. Figures for September 2009 showed a 43% increase in mortgage approvals compared with September 2008, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders.
Web link	http://www.24dash.com/news/Housing/2009-11-11-Mortgage-approvals-resume-upward-trend-with-2-increase
Date published	11 Nov 2009

Title	CIH to Help Promote A New Financial Model for Council Housing
Outline	CIH has offered to work with Government to help promote and introduce a new financial model for the management of council housing in England, from as early as April 2010. CIH believes the sector has now recognised the benefits of adopting a self-financing housing model, with initial reservations being replaced with a more positive assessment of a system which gives local people more opportunity to take financial control over their homes and communities. A new financial model would allow local authorities to provide housing and related services on a par with registered social landlords, and would also allow more properties to meet the Decent Homes standard. Local authorities would also be able to raise finance to address local housing issues. CIH also stressed the importance of bringing proposals forward quickly for local authorities keen to look at a voluntary self-financing model for their 2010/11 business plans. Abigail Davies, CIH Head of Policy for England, said: "To enable reform to move forward quickly, councils now need firm proposals on how debt will be dealt with. We need to make sure that councils can make self-financing viable and deliver clear benefits to tenants for the long-term. The best chance of success we have is if the existing debt - and no more - is included in the settlement with Government."
Web links	http://www.cih.org/news/view.php?id=1130 http://www.cih.org/policy/ConsCouncilHousingFinance-Oct09.pdf http://www.cih.org/policy/HRA-reform-consult-summarysept09.pdf http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/councilhousingconsultation
Date published	3 Nov 2009

Title	More Help With Housing Costs for Working Families
Outline	More than 200,000 working families will gain about 1000 a year thanks to new rules on Housing and Council Tax Benefits, making them an average of 20 a week better off. From Monday, income from Child Benefit will no longer be taken into account when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.
Web link	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2009/november-2009/dwp059-09-021109.shtml
Date published	2 Nov 2009

Title	Rent Freeze Could Mean Lack of Affordable Housing
Outline	Affordable housebuilding for needy families and those unable to get a mortgage will plummet next year unless ministers drop plans forcing housing associations to cut rents for two million tenants, leading housing associations and lenders have warned.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/oct/30/lack-affordable-housing
Date published	30 Oct 2009

Title	£450m to Kickstart Work on Stalled Housing Sites
Outline	Housing Minister John Healey has finalised a £450m funding package to kickstart work on over 150 stalled housing developments, getting work back on track and builders back on site. Workers will start returning to mothballed sites within weeks, building over 11,000 homes and creating or safeguarding around 9,500 jobs. Over 5,000 of these houses will be affordable homes for low cost sale or rent.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1369064
Date published	29 Oct 2009
Title	Affordable Homes to Become Renewable With Share of Government Grant
Outline	An initiative aimed at increasing the use of renewable construction materials in affordable homes has been agreed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Homes and Communities Agency. Funding under the Low Carbon Investment Fund will create a series of greener homes designed to minimise environmental impact through the increased use of building materials from renewable sources.
Web link	http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/affordable-homes-renewable-grant.htm
Date published	2 Nov 2009
Title	Meeting Housing Needs of (Ex)Offenders
Outline	CLG have published guidance on homelessness prevention and meeting the housing needs of (ex)offenders, focusing on increasing housing provision, partnership and multi-agency working, and providing ongoing support.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homelessnesspreventionguide
Date published	2 Nov 2009
Title	Better Housing and Employment Outcomes for Offenders on Probation
Outline	A newly-published DWP report explores the extent to which information sharing issues were impeding or facilitating the frontline delivery of Public Service Agreement 16 for adult offenders under probation supervision.
Web link	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2009/october-2009/dwp057-09-291009.shtml
Date published	29 Oct 2009
Title	More Help Needed for Homeless Young People
Outline	A report published this week by charity Railway Children indicates many young people living on the streets struggle to receive any support, with only a quarter receiving any intervention or assistance.
Web link	http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk/article.asp?id=801
Date published	3 Nov 2009