

Consultation Publications Websites May 2010

Consultations

Title	Making Better Use of Energy Performance Certificates and Data
Outline	CLG is seeking comments on proposals to improve the effectiveness of Energy Performance Certificates. Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) and Display Energy Certificates (DEC) have an important role to play in supporting our carbon reduction aims by providing vital information about the energy efficiency of buildings in England and Wales and advice about measures to improve their energy performance. To enhance their contribution, CLG is consulting on a number of measures to help improve the effectiveness of EPCs and to make better use of energy performance data.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/epceffectivenessconsult
Launch date	2 March 2010
Deadline date.....	25 May 2010

Reminders: (were on April's bulletin but deadline not yet passed...)

Title	Council housing: A real future (Prospectus)
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1512947.pdf
Deadline date.....	6 July 2010

Title	Housing design and sustainability standards consultation
Outline	Core standards are aimed at setting testing but clear goals through a new and transparent process that intends to reduce bureaucracy. As well as quality, the viability of schemes, delivery of housing and the impact on the housebuilding industry will be key considerations. The consultation seeks views on a series of options for how the national housing and regeneration agency might design and phase in new standards and apply them to its programme. The Cambridge Enablers propose to consult local RSL partners for thoughts (via RSL forum) and submit responses to Sue Beecroft to coordinate. To come back to CRHB via email in mid June, for approval.
Web links	All the evidence base sections - PDF (496 KB) The two documents referenced above contain the written content of this consultation; they do not include the specific consultation questions. Download the consultation questions - PDF (108 KB)
Deadline date.....	17 June 2010

Title	Statutory Guidance for Local Duties on Child Poverty (Child Poverty Act 2010)
Web link	Read the consultation document on-line: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conDocument&consultationId=1712&menu=1 Respond on-line here: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=Respond&consultationId=1712&menu=1
Deadline date.....	Friday 18 June 2010

Title	New Policy Document for Planning Obligations: Consultation
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1518602.pdf
Deadline date.....	21 June 2010
Link to any further info	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/doc/1518616.doc

Publications and announcements

Title	Positive Action for Disability
Outline	This CIH project was set up in 2009 to address the under-representation of disabled professionals in the housing sector. Currently housing associations have fewer than 2% of employees declaring a disability, in contrast to 20% of disabled people in the general population. PafD aims to help housing organisations redress this balance and mainstream talented disabled people into your organisation. The initiative helps organisation to become more disability-friendly by helping to recruit and support disabled trainees, and offers a practical, hassle-free service with extensive knowledge and expertise in disability equality issues.
Web link	News Release http://www.cih.org/news/view.php?id=1170 More http://www.cih.org/careers/positiveaction/ Contact graham.findlay@cih.org
Date published.....	5 Feb 2010

Title	Allocations and Local Flexibility
Outline	In December, CLG published new statutory guidance on social housing allocations which encourages local authorities to take a more strategic approach to allocating homes by taking account of local circumstances and reflecting these in their allocations schemes. CIH with support from CLG has now published a Practice Brief which is designed to help local authorities to put this into practice. This offers pointers on how to implement the new statutory guidance. It is essential reading for local authorities, but will also be of interest to registered providers more widely as well as those seeking a concise and jargon-free introduction to the topic. <i>Allocations and Local Flexibility</i> offers some pointers on how to implement the CLG's latest statutory guidance. It provides information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The current legislative framework around allocations, including the implications of the recent House of Lords judgement in <i>Ahmad v Newham LBC</i> * The existing flexibilities local authorities can use in allocating housing * The use of local lettings policies to take account of local specific circumstances * Effective ways of communicating the allocations scheme to different groups, including the wider public, housing applicants, staff, elected members and stakeholders * The importance of communicating lettings outcomes * Effective ways of engaging and involving communities when consulting over changes or when framing the allocations scheme
Web link	http://members.cih.org/bookshop/Catalogue.aspx (takes you to CIH bookshop)
Date published.....	April 2010

Title	Park Homes Site Licensing Reform: the way forward and next steps
Outline	Following the consultation <i>Park Home Site Licensing: Improving the Management of Park Home Sites</i> in May 2009, CLG and the Welsh Assembly Government have issued a paper setting out the Government's views about the proposals in light of the responses received by consultees and also sets out conclusions on how to take the proposals forward.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1524779.pdf
Date published.....	30 March 2010

Title	Lord Best to Head New Commission into Council Housing Delivery
Outline	Housing Minister John Healey and the Local Government Association have announced the launch of joint work to look at how councils can deliver new homes to tackle the shortage of affordable housing and help drive economic growth. A new Commission chaired by Lord Richard Best will assess what councils are already achieving and advise on ways councils could play an even greater part helping to build the homes the country needs and to extend their strategic housing role to better meet local needs and aspirations.
Web link	http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2010-03-29-Lord-Best-to-head-new-commission-into-council-housing-delivery
Date published.....	29 March 2010

Title	New Inspection Arrangements for Social Housing Landlords
Outline	The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and the Audit Commission have issued a joint statement setting out the interim arrangements for all TSA commissioned inspections taking place between April and October 2010. The statement builds on the TSA's new regulatory framework, which sets out six national standards which social housing landlords will need to meet. The statement sets out how the TSA will commission, and the Audit Commission undertake, inspections.
News release.....	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.20238/changeNav/14570
Statement	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/pdf/TSA_AC_joint_statement.pdf
Date published.....	31 March 2010

Title	Select Committee Report on Local Housing Allowance
Outline	The Work and Pensions Select Committee has published its report on Local Housing Allowance, which analyses how the scheme has worked against its primary objectives of fairness, choice, transparency, improving personal responsibility and financial inclusion, reducing barriers to work and improving administration. It makes a number of recommendations as to how these aspects of the scheme can be improved.
Web link	http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmworpen/235/235.pdf
Date published.....	22 March 2010

Title	Building the National Care Service
Outline	Government has now published its long awaited social care White Paper Building the National Care Service. It develops a staged approach to establishing a national service, including an independent Commission to devise funding arrangements for it. In terms of housing, there is a strong recognition throughout on the need for more joined-up and integrated working, at strategic and individual levels.

Web link	http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114922
CIH note.....	http://www.cih.org/policy/fpp-HousingHealthCare-Dec09.pdf
Date published.....	30 March 2010
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Title	'Power of Government Investment Keeping Britain Building'
Outline	Housing Minister John Healey declared that Government investment has helped to safeguard jobs and deliver new homes in the midst of recession as he announced the release of 263 million additional funding for new affordable homes and to kickstart stalled developments.
Web link	http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2010-03-31-Healey-Power-of-Government-investment-keeping-Britain-building
Date published.....	31 March 2010
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Title	How can the planning system deliver more housing?
Outline	JRF have issued a new Solutions publication highlighting problems in the current planning system, and present a range of possible solutions as identified by organisations and from housing and planning academics and practitioners. Includes ideas and proposals for how to deliver more new housing, especially affordable housing. The planning system is seen as one of the main barriers to the delivery of new housing. The note highlights problems in the current system, and pulls together suggestions for change from a range of organisations, and from housing and planning academics and practitioners. The suggested ways forward include: * moving away from national targets towards a more localised incentives-based system of land-use planning; * Simplified contributions to infrastructure and affordable housing that include a narrowly defined Section 106; * encouraging local housing trusts, community land trusts, self-build and other local initiatives, which can deliver more housing and empower local communities.
Web link	http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/planning-system-more-housing
Date published.....	26 March 2010
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Title	Housing Association Assets Grow By 11%
Outline	The total value of the housing association sector's assets rose by 11% to 94.6 billion according to the Tenant Services Authority's 2009 global accounts of housing associations, showing that the sector has survived the worst effects of the recession. The operating surplus and turnover of the sector has also increased, partly as a result of changes in accounting rules which impact on low cost home ownership.
Web link	http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.20213/changeNav/14567
Date published.....	25 March 2010
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Title	Further Boost to Councils to Tackle Tenancy Cheats
Outline	Housing Minister John Healey has given councils and housing associations another 27,000 hot leads to potential tenancy cheats who fraudulently sublet the homes they have been allocated. Currently, anyone found committing this fraud faces losing their tenancy - but offering the option to councils to treat this as a criminal offence as well could add both a fine and the possibility of the landlord getting back the fraudulent profits made by the tenant.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1524182
Date published.....	29 March 2010
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Title	Fuel Poverty Targets to Be Missed As Bills Rise
Outline	The Energy and Climate Change Committee has warned the Government that its target to lift millions of vulnerable households out of fuel poverty will be missed as fuel costs have risen far out of reach of the impact of schemes to tackle the problem. Although welcoming such efforts, the Committee also warned that part of the problem was that the Government does not know exactly who the "fuel poor" are, so the people who need it most are not necessarily getting the help they need.
Web link	http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2010-03-30-Government-to-miss-fuel-poverty-target-as-bills-continue-to-rise
Date published.....	30 March 2010
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Title	I Love My (Council) House
Outline	Defend Council Housing asked council tenants to supply pictures of their homes for an exhibition showing the positive side of council housing. The Guardian has featured eight of these pictures in an online slideshow.
Slideshow:	http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/gallery/2010/mar/26/council-housing-negative-stereotypes
Date published.....	30 March 2010

Title **Tackling Black and Minority Ethnic homelessness**

Outline Recent statistics show that local authorities are accepting a disproportionately high number of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people as statutory homeless. There is also evidence to suggest that a lack of knowledge of, or an unwillingness to rely on, the welfare system, may also be a barrier for some BME groups to access homelessness services. So, is your service effective in reaching the groups who are most susceptible to homelessness? Tips for success when combating BME homelessness include:

- * Having a representative staff profile that includes staff from BME backgrounds
- * Having staff who can translate or having access to translation services, literature and signs in different languages
- * Considering cultural differences in your hostel accommodation, for example respect for prayer times and allowing for the separate preparation of vegetarian food or halal meat
- * Partnership working with local organisations who have experience of working with minority groups.

We have recently expanded our new practice online chapter on homelessness to include advice on working with BME communities and other groups who are more susceptible to homelessness, such as asylum seekers and migrants.

Web link <http://www.cih.org/practice/online/> (need a login from CIH to access)

Date published 31 March 2010

Title **LGB Equality and Housing**

Outline Working with Stonewall, CIH has set up a free, open-access online practice network for people committed to sharing best practice and extending equality for LGBT people working and living in housing and communities. This online network has over 180 members and provides a place for sharing knowledge, problem solving and developing best practice through an online community of practice. This community of practice will grow and develop over time and it will be shaped by your ideas and involvement. If you want to join the network, please email John Thornhill at john.thornhill@cih.org

Date published 31 March 2010

Title **Affordable Homes Needed for Cities' Success**

Outline A new report from Centre for Cities identifies the lack of affordable housing as a major constraint on the continued success of England's cities. It calls for new incentives for local authorities to build more homes, and identifies lack of land as a critical factor.

Web link <http://www.centreforcities.org/index.php?id=1097>

Date published 17 March 2010

Title **More Help Against Repossessions**

Outline Further funding concentrated on 86 'hotspots' has been announced by the government to help prevent repossessions (listed below). The scheme has been credited as a major factor in keeping the level of repossessions to half of that in the last recession. None of the 86 repossession "hotspots" are in our housing sub-region. They are:

Ashfield	Gravesham	Redditch
Barking and Dagenham	Greenwich	Rochdale
Barnsley	Halton	Rossendale
Basildon	Harlow	Rotherham
Birmingham	Ipswich	Salford
Blackburn with Darwen	Kingston-upon-Hull	Sandwell
Blackpool	Kirklees	Sedgefield
Blyth Valley	Knowsley	Slough
Bolsover	Lambeth	South Holland
Bolton	Leeds	South Tyneside
Bradford	Leicester	Southend-on-sea
Broxbourne	Lewisham	Stevenage
Burnley	Liverpool	Stockton-on-Tees
Bury	Luton	Stoke-on-Trent
Cannock Chase	Manchester	Sunderland
Chester-le-Street	Mansfield	Swindon
Corby	Medway	Tameside
Coventry	Middlesbrough	Tamworth
Croydon	Milton Keynes	Thanet
Darlington	NE Lincolnshire	Thurrock
Dartford	Newham	Wakefield
Derwentside	North Lincolnshire	Walsall
Doncaster	Northampton	Waltham Forest
Dudley	Nottingham	Wear Valley
Easington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	Wellingborough
Enfield	Oldham	West Lancashire
Erewash	Peterborough	Wigan
Gateshead	Reading	Wolverhampton
Gloucester	Redbridge	

Web link <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1506350>

Date published 17 March 2010

Title	Cash for Homes from Government
Outline	Housing Minister John Healey confirmed the final tranche of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant of £135 million to support councils to plan and deliver more homes. He also announced changes to planning rules which will remove 10,000 applications from the process and speed up delivery.
Web link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1507008
"Soon to be launched on"	http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyimplementation/planningdeliverygrant/
Date published	16 March 2010
Title	Homelessness Organisations Form Strategic Alliance
Outline	St Mungo's and Crisis are to work together in a strategic alliance to address some shared goals in tackling homelessness, including lobbying current and future governments and London's mayor to deliver on rough sleeping targets.
Web link	http://www.crisis.org.uk/news.php?id=90
Date published	15 March 2010
Title	Tackle Housing to hit Fuel Poverty Targets
Outline	A recent report by IPPR has highlighted the need to address housing, if the Government's fuel poverty targets are to be met. Measures to address the costs have been valuable but lost in recent price increases. Tackling fuel poverty long-term will require a focus on fuel efficiency in homes.
Web link	http://www.24dash.com/news/Housing/2010-03-15-Improving-energy-efficiency-of-UK-homes-best-way-to-solve-fuel-poverty
Date published	15 March 2010
Title	Call for End to Fuel-Poor Homes
Outline	A coalition of campaign groups is calling for an end to the "scandal" of fuel poverty with the publication of a charter to make older homes as energy-efficient as new-build homes. The coalition, representing anti-poverty, energy, environmental, and health groups, has warned that the Government will fail to meet its target to end fuel poverty by 2016 under its current strategy, saying numbers could increase to a record high.
Web link	http://www.24dash.com/news/Housing/2010-03-17-Campaigners-call-for-end-to-fuel-poverty-scandal
Date published	17 March 2010
Title	More Winter Help for Poorest Pensioners
Outline	Up to 250,000 of the poorest pensioner households should see an £80 rebate off their electricity bills, thanks to a deal announced by the government and six major energy suppliers. As part of the deal, the Government will share data securely with the energy suppliers so that they can identify the most vulnerable pensioners.
Web link	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2010/march-2010/dwp044-10-120310.shtml
Date published	12 March 2010
Title	Buy-To-Let Tax Break Plan Attacked
Outline	Treasury plans to offer tax breaks to buy-to-let investors will price thousands of first-time buyers out of the housing market while exacerbating the unfair advantage enjoyed by buy-to-let investors, according to lobby group PricedOut.
Web link	http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/15/first-time-buyers-priced-out
Date published	15 March 2010
Title	Inclusion Health
Outline	A new report by the Department of Health and the Social Exclusion Taskforce Inclusion Health looks at how health services for the most vulnerable are being developed and aims to spread effective practice with, among other measures, a national inclusion health board.
Web link	http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/news/2010/100311-inclusionhealth.aspx
Date published	11 March 2010