

## Consultation Publications Websites June 2010

### Reminder of consultations still running...

Title ..... **Housing design and sustainability standards consultation**  
 Outline ..... The Cambridge Enablers propose to consult local RSL partners for thoughts (via RSL forum) and submit a coordinated response. To come back to CRHB via email in mid June, for approval.  
 Web links ..... [All the evidence base sections - PDF \(496 KB\)](#)  
 ..... [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 ..... <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conDocument&consultationId=1712&menu=1>  
 ..... <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>  
 ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/doc/1518616.doc>  
 Deadline date..... 21 June 2010

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

### New publications

Title ..... **Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics** - March Quarter 2010  
 Outline ..... The Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics give information on the number of households approaching local authorities with mortgage difficulties, fast-track referrals and applications and acceptances for the scheme. Covers two elements: *Government Mortgage to Rent* option which involves a RSL purchasing the homeowner's property, enabling the household to remain in the property as a tenant on an assured short hold tenancy, paying an intermediate rent; and *Shared Equity* option which involves a RSL providing a loan to the homeowner to enable the homeowner's monthly mortgage payments to be reduced. The figures, presented by Region, are based on Mortgage Rescue Scheme returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and data from the fast-track case management system. Following a consultation with users of the data, from August 2009, the release of summary Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics moved to a quarterly publication schedule. The quarterly schedule allows the co-ordination of Mortgage Rescue Scheme monitoring statistics releases with the quarterly statistical publications on repossessions produced by the MoJ and CML.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1569310.xls>  
 Date published..... 13 May 2010

Title ..... **Housing and Planning Delivery Grant: Consultation** - Allocation Mechanism for Year 3 and Summary of Responses  
 Outline ..... The Government set out detailed proposals for revising the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) allocation mechanism for years 2 and 3, which was published for consultation on 12 May 2009. This document is a summary of responses received and also confirms the final allocation mechanism in the light of the comments received.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1533833.pdf>  
 Date published..... 6 April 2010

Title ..... **Area Based Grant**  
 Outline ..... Area Based Grant is a general grant allocated directly to local authorities as additional revenue funding to areas. It is allocated according to specific policy criteria rather than general formulae. Local authorities are free to use all of this non-ringfenced funding as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas.  
 ..... A paper for CRHB sets out the allocations for our housing sub-region, districts and counties.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/1536588.xls>  
 Date published..... March 2010, revised and re-sent April 2010

Title .....	<b>Housing Market Picking Up</b>
Outline .....	The latest survey from RICS indicates that the housing market is showing signs of picking up with more surveyors reporting a rise in prices and sales; however in some areas prices are still falling. There has also been an increase in the number of homes being put up for sale.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.rics.org/site/scripts/press_article.aspx?pressreleaseID=223">http://www.rics.org/site/scripts/press_article.aspx?pressreleaseID=223</a>
Date published .....	12 May 2010

Title .....	<b>Call for Action to Build New Private Rented Sector</b>
Outline .....	A group of trade bodies including RICS and CML have called on the incoming government to alter the tax system in order to encourage institutions such as pension funds and insurance companies to get involved with large scale house building. The consortium wants to see government support for a large scale rented sector mirroring that of America or Europe. The move would mean major development projects would create new homes and jobs, securing long term investment in many deprived areas.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.bpf.org.uk/newsroom/pressreleases/document/23919/lenders-surveyors-and-landlords-call-for-bold-action-to-build-new-rented-housing-sector">http://www.bpf.org.uk/newsroom/pressreleases/document/23919/lenders-surveyors-and-landlords-call-for-bold-action-to-build-new-rented-housing-sector</a>
Date published .....	12 May 2010

Title .....	<b>Residential Development Land Prices Rise</b>
Outline .....	Research from Knight Frank shows a rise of 11.5% in residential development land prices in the twelve months to the end of March 2010. The increase was attributed to improving demand and slow growth in supply volumes. Knight Frank also pointed out that developer strategies showed a divide between a slower market in the north and a more buoyant market in the south.
Web link .....	<a href="http://knightfrank.co.uk/news/Residential-development-land-values-in-England-rise-by-the-strongest-rate-since-2005-0198.aspx">http://knightfrank.co.uk/news/Residential-development-land-values-in-England-rise-by-the-strongest-rate-since-2005-0198.aspx</a>
Date published .....	12 May 2010

Title .....	<b>A Hung Parliament and the Housing Market</b>
Outline .....	The Monday 10 May edition of Radio 4 programme <i>You and Yours</i> featured a discussion between a panel of housing experts on the impact of a hung parliament on buying and renting homes.
Web link and "listen again" .....	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00s8jxm">http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00s8jxm</a>
Date published .....	12 May 2010

Title .....	<b>Unemployment and Underemployment</b>
Outline .....	Latest figures show an increase in unemployment in the three months to March and an increase in the number of people having to work part-time rather than full-time. An IPPR report highlights the issue of underemployment with figures showing a 45% increase in numbers working part-time since the recession began.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3994">http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3994</a> <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/20/hi/business/10109965.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/20/hi/business/10109965.stm</a> <a href="http://www.cih.org/worklessness/">http://www.cih.org/worklessness/</a>
Date published .....	12 May 2010

Title .....	<b>FSA Guidance for Housing Providers Published</b>
Outline .....	The FSA have now published practical guidance for social housing providers on financial regulation and financial inclusion activities, this includes guidance on promoting financial products, developing partnerships with banks and credit unions, and offering home contents insurance.
Web link .....	<a href="http://fsahandbook.info/FSA/extra/GN9_20100420.pdf">http://fsahandbook.info/FSA/extra/GN9_20100420.pdf</a>
Date published .....	19 May 2010

## Other announcements

Title .....	<b>New Construction Minister, Mark Prisk</b> meets Construction Innovation and Growth Team
Outline .....	The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has announced that the new minister with responsibility for the construction industry is Chartered Surveyor Mark Prisk. The Minister has met the Steering Group of the Low Carbon Construction Review Innovation and Growth Team, an industry-led body set up to review the construction industry which aims to ensure the sector is 'fit for purpose' for delivering a low carbon future. The Construction Minister said: "My portfolio offers me a fantastic opportunity to support an industry that provides a significant amount of the nation's GDP. The Low Carbon Construction IGT will play a key part in the Prime Minister's pledge to make this 'the greenest government ever' and I look forward to seeing it's conclusions on tackling the challenges of a low carbon agenda." The Low Carbon Construction IGT Emerging Findings report was published 17 March 2010 and can be found here: <a href="http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/10-671-construction-igt-emerging-findings.pdf">http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/10-671-construction-igt-emerging-findings.pdf</a>

Web link ..... <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=413503&NewsAreaID=2>  
 Date published ..... 25 May 2010

**Title ..... Pickles stops unitary councils in Exeter, Norwich and Suffolk**  
**Outline ..... Wasteful and unnecessary restructuring plans for Exeter, Norwich and Suffolk Councils are to be stopped immediately the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles announced today. Stopping these changes will save the taxpayer £40m in restructuring costs, remove the risk of further pressure on local council tax bills, and avoid a costly distraction from the priority of delivering local services and genuine efficiency gains.**  
 ..... An urgent Bill is being introduced in Parliament today by the coalition Government to revoke the orders that create the new unitary councils. Subject to Parliament the aim is to enact the Bill by the summer to give certainty and stability for councils' budgets.  
 ..... Mr Pickles said: "When the priority must be to tackle the immense public deficit we have inherited, it is ludicrous that taxpayers' money is being wasted imposing a council reorganisation in Exeter and Norwich. This Government made it clear in its Coalition Agreement that reducing unnecessary spending would be part of how we cut the deficit. Today I am pulling the plug on this expensive distraction and saving the taxpayer £40m of restructuring costs. Councils in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk will now be able to concentrate on delivering services to their communities and achieving genuine savings for the local people who elected them."  
 ..... The Secretary of State called a halt to the consultation on proposed changes to Suffolk, where councils had been asked to establish a county constitutional convention to reach a consensus on a unitary structure for Suffolk. This will now be cancelled and all restructuring plans for Suffolk will be stopped.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1600805>  
 Date published ..... 26 May 2010

**Title ..... HCA Announces Plans to Save £2m per Year**  
**Outline ..... The Homes and Communities Agency has announced a number of measures to streamline their top structure and office accommodation, which will achieve efficiency savings of around £2m per year. The announcement sees a reduction in the number of corporate director posts at the Agency from seven to three, in addition to the chief executive. The changes will take effect from the end of June.**  
 ..... Chief Executive of the HCA, Sir Bob Kerslake, said: "In the current economic climate we are very clear that where we can make efficiency savings and achieve more for less, then we should. We have a strong regional structure and well-established local relationships and I am confident that this new top structure means we remain fit for purpose as a national agency that works locally." The HCA has also announced its intention to further reduce the number of offices inherited from the Agency's predecessor bodies.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/hca-announces-changes-to-corporate-structure.htm>  
 Date published ..... 26 May 2010

**Title ..... Queen's Speech**  
**Outline ..... The Queen's Speech 2010 announced 22 new bills which set out the government's priorities.**  
 ..... These include  
 ..... a Welfare Reform Bill which will simplify the welfare and benefits system, improving work incentives  
 ..... a Pensions and Savings Bill which will implement the findings of the review of the state pension age being conducted by the government.  
 ..... a Decentralisation and Localism Bill which will give more power to councils and neighbourhoods, including giving councils more powers over housing and planning decisions  
 ..... an Energy and Green Economy Bill which will promotes energy-efficiency measures in the home by introducing incentives to suppliers and households to save energy.  
 Web link ..... BBC: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/8701376.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8701376.stm)  
 ..... CIH: <http://www.cih.org/news/view.php?id=1235>  
 Date published ..... 26 May 2010

**Title ..... CIH Briefing Paper on the Coalition Programme For Government**  
**Outline ..... CIH has written a Briefing Paper on the Coalition government's programme for partnership government. The Briefing provides a summary of the housing and community policies relevant to the sector as well as providing useful comment and analysis. The summary is part of CIH's [Housing Futures](http://www.housingfutures.cih.co.uk) website which aims to keep our members and the sector keep up to speed with all the latest development. The site also provides the housing community valuable opportunity for debate and discussion on housing and communities issues and agendas for better outcomes tomorrow.**  
 ..... The paper includes sections on: Social housing, Increased access to homeownership, Planning, Community empowerment, Empowering local authorities, Government agencies/QUANGOs, Environment, Anti-social behaviour, Jobs and welfare, Financial inclusion, CIH general comments  
 Web link ..... [http://www.housingfutures.cih.co.uk/file.php/1/Summary\\_Coalition\\_programme25.05.10.pdf](http://www.housingfutures.cih.co.uk/file.php/1/Summary_Coalition_programme25.05.10.pdf)  
 Date published ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **New Ministerial Team Appointed**  
**Outline** ..... The new Liberal-Conservative coalition has finalised its ministerial team. This includes the newly appointed Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, [Eric Pickles](#), the Minister for Housing, [Grant Shapps](#) and Work and Pensions Secretary [Iain Duncan Smith](#).  
**Web link** ..... <http://www.cih.org/news/view.php?id=1214>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **Chancellor George Osborne Announces £6.2 billion Savings in 2010-11**  
**Outline** ..... Chancellor George Osborne has announced £6.2 billion of cuts in a bid to reduce the UK deficit, including £780 million of cuts from CLG. It is the new government's first move to tackle the UK's £156bn deficit ahead of a spending review later in 2010. Labour's £1.5 billion housing pledge will be reduced by £180 million, but £170 million will be invested in social housing.  
**Web link** ..... [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr\\_reducing\\_government\\_deficit.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_reducing_government_deficit.htm)  
<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/finance/government-cuts-mixed-bag-for-housing-sector/6509937.article>  
<http://www.cih.org/news/view.php?id=1234>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **HCA To Cut New Homes Funding By £230 Million**  
**Outline** ..... Following the announcement of government funding cuts, the Homes and Communities Agency has announced plans to implement a £230million savings programme. Reductions to the budgets for the National Affordable Housing Programme, round 2 of Kickstart, the Gypsy and Traveller programme, and Housing Market Renewal have been confirmed.  
**Web link** ..... <http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2010-05-25-HCA-to-cut-new-homes-funding-by-230-million-full-details>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **Warning Against 'Nimby's Charter' from NHF**  
**Outline** ..... While welcoming new measures announced in the Queen's Speech, the National Housing Federation has warned that plans to return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils under the Decentralisation and Localism Bill must ensure that much-needed affordable housing will still be delivered and that the localism agenda does not become a 'Nimby's Charter'.  
**Web link** ..... <http://www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=212&mid=828&ctl=Details&ArticleID=2947>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **NHF Publishes New Report On Funding Affordable Housing**  
**Outline** ..... The NHF has published a report on funding of affordable housing. *Facing the future: Evolution or revolution?* explores a range of financing options and organisational changes for housing associations. The report suggests unconventional routes to accessing funding, such as issuing shares on commercial parts of their businesses, could be a potential source of raising revenue for investment, or making use of non-registered commercial subsidiaries, which in practice could be able to issue share capital.  
**Web link** ..... <http://www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=212&mid=828&ctl=Details&ArticleID=2944>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **Home Information Packs Scrapped**  
**Outline** ..... Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Housing Minister Grant Shapps have announced that, with immediate effect, Home Information Packs are to be scrapped. But to incentivise homeowners to reduce their energy bills and tackle climate change, sellers will still be required to produce an Energy Performance Certificate when they sell their home.  
**Web link** ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/newsroom/1592737>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010

**Title** ..... **Mortgage Lending 'At Lowest Level Since 2001'**  
**Outline** ..... Net mortgage lending in April was just £1.83 billion, the lowest level since 2001 according to the British Bankers' Association. They also stated that mortgage repayments were particularly strong in April as lenders actively encouraged borrowers to use their spare cash to pay down their loan  
**Web link** ..... <http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2010-05-26-Mortgage-lending-at-lowest-level-since-2001>  
**Date published** ..... 26 May 2010