

## Consultation Publications Websites March 2009

### Consultations

Title ..... **Tackling Race Inequalities: A discussion document**  
 Outline ..... A discussion paper from CLG which seeks views on improving opportunities for black, Asian and minority ethnic people. This publication sets out a series of questions on our future approach for people to consider and reply to. CLG is aiming to consult members of the public and stakeholders for a 12-week period. We will then publish our planned future approach to achieving race equality later in the year.  
 Gauge of housing relevance ..... 27 mentions of the word "housing" in 45 pages  
 Web link ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1155456.pdf>  
 Launch date ..... 24 February 2009  
 Deadline date ..... 18 May 2009  
 Date added to list ..... 4 Mar 2009  
 Link to any further info ..... None

Title ..... **Consultation Before Disposal to Private Sector Landlord: Statutory Guidance – A Consultation Paper**  
 Outline ..... This consultation seeks views on draft statutory Guidance to English local housing authorities on meeting the requirements imposed on them by paragraph 3 to Schedule 3A of the Housing Act 1985 - Consultation before disposal to private sector landlord (as amended by section 294 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008). CLG would welcome responses to the specific questions posed at the end of this document as well as any general comments you may have. Please ensure your responses to the specific questions we pose, clearly identify the question number to assist us with the compilation and analysis of responses. It would also be helpful if you could respond electronically. This will help us reduce the time we need to compile and analyse the comments we receive.  
 Gauge of housing relevance ..... Relevant to stock-owning LAs who are considering stock transfer – all about consultation of tenants and leaseholders in the transfer process  
 Web link ..... <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1156842.pdf>  
 Launch date ..... 26 Feb 09  
 Deadline date ..... 21 May 09  
 Date added to list ..... 4 Mar 2009  
 Link to any further info ..... None

Title ..... **Questionnaire – new backdating rules for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit**  
 Outline ..... A DWP questionnaire which is part of a review of the backdating rules for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, introduced in October 2008. It is aimed primarily at people who work for organisations such as welfare rights agencies, local authorities, landlords, housing associations.  
 Gauge of housing relevance ..... Difficult to tell, probably an awareness issue for HB and CTB teams  
 Web link ..... <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2009/hb-ctb-backdating-questionnaire.asp>  
 Launch date ..... 2 March 09  
 Deadline date ..... 31 July 09  
 Date added to list ..... 4 Mar 2009  
 Link to any further info ..... None

Title ..... **Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation**  
 Outline ..... The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) have jointly published a consultation on 'Heat and Energy Saving Strategy'. This document sets out the Government's vision up to 2020 and beyond, and seeks views on a range of policies which could help to decarbonise the way we heat our homes and businesses, helping us to reduce the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to contribute to the target of obtaining 20% of all EU energy from renewables by 2020.  
 Gauge of housing relevance ..... Linked on many levels  
 Web link ..... <http://hes.decc.gov.uk/>  
 Launch date ..... 12 Feb 09  
 Deadline date ..... 8 May 09  
 Date added to list ..... 4 Mar 2009  
 Link to any further info ..... None

Title .....	<b>Regulating the Sale and Rent Back Market: A consultation</b>
Outline .....	HM Treasury consultation seeking views on strengthening protection for vulnerable homeowners. The Government is proposing that companies offering sale and rent back agreements, which may target homeowners facing repossession, should be brought within the scope of Financial Services Authority regulation.
Gauge of housing relevance .....	Probably indirect, but to be aware of
Web link .....	Consultation paper: <a href="http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_rent_sale060209.pdf">http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_rent_sale060209.pdf</a>
.....	Website explaining more: <a href="http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_sale_rent.htm">http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_sale_rent.htm</a>
Launch date .....	6 February 2009
Deadline date.....	1 May 2009
Date added to list.....	4 Mar 2009
Link to any further info .....	None

## Publications and announcements

Title .....	<b>Net Supply of Housing</b>
Outline .....	The latest CLG statistics report on net supply of housing up to the 2007-08 financial year and update those previously released in 2008. Key points from the latest release are: * Annual housing supply in England reached 207,500 net additional dwellings in 2007-08; this is a 4% increase on the 199,000 net additional homes supplied in the previous year, and the highest annual level of net housing supply in the last thirty years. * Seven out of the nine English regions experienced an increase in the number of net additional dwellings supplied in the 2007-08 financial year, with the East Midlands and the West Midlands experiencing falls of 7% 3% respectively. * The North West saw the largest annual increase (15%) followed by the South West (9%).
Web link .....	All info: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/netsupplyhousing200708">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/netsupplyhousing200708</a> Report: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1159395.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1159395.pdf</a>
Date published.....	27 Feb 09
Date added to list.....	4 Mar 09
Link to any further info .....	Spreadsheet: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1159410.xls">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1159410.xls</a>

Title .....	<b>Minor repairs and adaptations 'handyperson' funding for 2009/10 and 2010/11</b>
Outline .....	Letter from CLG to local authority chief executives informing them of the availability of Minor Repair and Adaptation "handyperson" grant allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11. The purpose of the minor repairs and adaptations 'handyperson' services funding is to enable authorities to expand and further develop any existing services or, where no such provision exists, to develop new schemes. It is aimed at funding services to achieve better outcomes for older people. It is important that these services are designed in an evidence based way, appropriate for the people being targeted.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1159092.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1159092.pdf</a>
Date published.....	26 Feb 09
Date added to list.....	4 Mar 09
Link to any further info .....	None

Title .....	<b>Location, location, location</b>
Outline .....	Report from the TSA. Rationalising housing association stock involves swaps, transfers, management agreements and better partnership working. The aim is to improve housing and neighbourhood services for residents and increase cost effectiveness for housing associations. It can also help associations deliver a greater sense of neighbourhood. This publication gives some examples of how associations have approached rationalisation and offers some useful guidance that others may like to adopt.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/pdf/location.pdf">http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/pdf/location.pdf</a>
Date published.....	23 Feb 09
Date added to list.....	4 Mar 09
Link to any further info .....	None

Title .....	<b>Comprehensive Area Assessment News</b>
Outline .....	Audit Commission newsletter aimed at all the inspectorates and key stakeholders involved in the creation of the comprehensive area assessment. Issue 12 for February 2009 has been added, which covers the final CAA framework, the Care Quality Commission, the transition from CPA to CAA, a CAA myth buster, a CAA timeline, CAA in the news and event listings.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/news.asp">http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/news.asp</a>
Date published.....	Feb 2008
Date added to list.....	4 Mar 2009
Link to any further info .....	More links provided on the website above

Title .....	<b>Joint working set out to achieve goal of affordable housing</b>
Outline .....	The TSA and HCA charged with championing tenants rights and delivering affordable housing have identified building sustainable communities as being at the top of their joint agendas. The 2 agencies today agreed their first Memorandum of Understanding to further strengthen joint working, setting out how the two organisations will work together to ensure sufficient good quality and well-managed affordable housing in sustainable communities. Both organisations were launched on 1 December 2008. The MoU, which sets out the broad principles and processes covers open exchange of information, consultation on matters of common interest, coordinated decision making and joint responses to imminent threats and breaking crises. The document acknowledges that the maintenance of lender confidence, constructive dialogue with Registered Providers (currently RSLs), and relationships with local government will be crucial in achieving the statutory outcomes of the two agencies.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/HCA_TSA_Memorandum_of_Understanding.pdf">http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/HCA_TSA_Memorandum_of_Understanding.pdf</a>
Date published.....	26 February 2009
Date added to list.....	4 March 2009
Link to any further info .....	None

Title .....	<b>Draft Planning Policy Statement: Eco-towns - Consultation</b>
Outline .....	Communities and Local Government Consultation paper. This consultation seeks views on a draft planning policy statement on eco-towns that precisely defines what constitutes an eco-town; what environmental, social and economic standards these developments should achieve; and how eco-towns relate to the planning system.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppsecotowns.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppsecotowns.pdf</a>
Date published.....	4 November 2008
Date added to list.....	6 March 2009 ( <i>has been extended to end of April so rumour has it!</i> )
Link to any further info .....	Cambridgeshire County and Cambridgeshire Horizons are both preparing responses. Horizons has consulting with district councils' senior planners. Any queries, please contact Sue Beecroft.

Title .....	<b>Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics</b>
Outline .....	This page links to the latest national (Ministry of Justice) statistics on mortgage and landlord possessions. The national and regional figures for the fourth quarter of 2008 have been added.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm">http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm</a>
Date published.....	20 February 2009
Date added to list.....	4 March 09
Link to any further info .....	None

Title .....	<b>Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant</b>
Outline .....	The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant provides funding for local authorities and registered social landlords to create new sites and refurbishing existing sites. The aim of the grant programme is to increase the number and quality of authorised sites throughout England and a total of £97m of grants are available from 2008-11. The HCA is managing the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Our role is to promote and manage the annual bidding round, manage the assessment of applications, allocate funding and evaluate funded schemes. We also liaise with regional assemblies and local authorities to ensure that decisions on grant allocations take into account their view of priorities, and encourage stakeholders to consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers within housing strategies and related areas. Local authorities, ALMOs, and RSLs can apply for allocations from the £32 million available. The closing date for bids is 30 June 2009.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerid=b6016d7e2de641b1bfbf15844dddc4dc">http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerid=b6016d7e2de641b1bfbf15844dddc4dc</a>
Date published.....	4 Feb 2009
Date added to list.....	4 Mar 09
Link to any further info .....	<a href="#">Gypsies and Travellers Guidance - PDF (361 KB)</a> <a href="#">Gypsies and Travellers Useful Resources - PDF (39 KB)</a> Click here <a href="#">regional training events</a>

## New websites

Website ..... "Real Help for You to Keep Your Home"  
 Purpose ..... This page gives information for people who are worried about keeping up with mortgage repayments and fear losing their homes. The page links to information on mortgage advice, support for mortgage interest as part of jobseeker's allowance, the homeowner mortgage support scheme, facing repossession and free legal advice. It also has information on the mortgage rescue scheme, which operates in England by bringing together local authorities, registered social landlords, lenders and debt advice agencies.  
 Agency ..... DirectGov  
 Web link ..... <http://campaigns.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp/index.html>  
 Date added to list ..... 4 March 09

Website ..... "Real help for you to get on the property ladder"  
 Purpose ..... This page gives information about the help available for people who want to get on the property ladder, but are finding it hard to save a large enough deposit or get a large enough mortgage. It links to information on the HomeBuy scheme, which offers shared ownership and equity loans as an affordable way into home ownership. The scheme is open to households earning less than £60,000 a year who would otherwise be unable to buy. It could be considered by people including housing association or local authority tenants and key workers employed in a public service.  
 Agency ..... DirectGov  
 Web link ..... <http://campaigns.direct.gov.uk/ontheladder/index.html>  
 Date added to list ..... 4 March 09

Website ..... Department of Energy and Climate Change  
 Purpose ..... This site provides information about the Department and about the work we do. If your web browser supports RSS feeds, you can sign up to be kept informed whenever we add major news stories or speeches by our Ministers.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.decc.gov.uk/>  
 Date added to list ..... 4 March 09

Website ..... "Weather the Storm"  
 Purpose ..... Whether you're an individual, family or business, this is a guide to the national and local organisations that can advise and support you through the economic downturn. "Weather the Storm" is brought to you by Cambridgeshire Together, a group of the county's most influential organisations. Although any economic downturn is expected to be shallow in Cambridgeshire, it's our priority is to ensure that everyone affected is supported during the difficult times ahead.  
 Web link ..... <http://www.weatherthestorm.org.uk/Default.aspx>  
 Date added to list ..... 4 March 09