

## About Ark...

Ark Housing Consultancy is a broad based housing consultancy practice providing services relating to development, asset management, regeneration and organisational change.

Ark's clients are mainly local authorities, housing associations, ALMOs and other statutory and third sector organisations. The practice was established in 1990 and trades from offices in both Cheltenham and Birmingham.

Ark has a long-standing profile for providing advice to local planning authorities on the formulation and application of affordable housing planning policy, including viability appraisal and negotiating Section 106 agreements.

John Paterson is a founding partner of Ark and has over 30 years experience of working in the affordable housing sector. John leads Ark's work in relation to planning and affordable housing and has advised many local authorities and other parties on the policy framework and on specific applications. John has advised several authorities on planning appeals including appearing as an expert witness at inquiries and hearings.

John has a background at senior level in housing associations and in the house building industry. He is a chartered surveyor and fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

John led Ark's consultancy team on developing consistent affordable housing planning policies and related model Section 106 clauses across the authorities making up the Cambridge sub-region, an assignment which was completed in March 2009.

## **Summary of ARK's session**

The ARK session divides into four main strands:

- The policy context and the importance of economic viability including a summary of some of the overarching aspects of the work ARK undertook for the Cambridge housing sub region
- Viability assessment to support departures from policy, highlighting information requirements and the appropriate approach to viability testing
- Protecting an authority's position on longer term or uncertain projects, to include issues such as reviews, cascades, overage etc, drawing on lots of recent interesting developments, plus feedback from Ark's session with local developers
- The model S106 clauses