



The Chartered Institute of Housing

HOUSING 2011 CONFERENCE



Housing 2011 Session Information

Working through... community led planning

Governments over several years have spoken about the need for communities and individuals to have greater involvement in and control over the way their local areas develop and the services that they receive there. It is seen as the way to bring better results and increase effectiveness and value for money.

KEY FACTS

- Cuts to the Department of Communities and Local Government's budget was 27% overall, but from its Communities arm, that reduction is 51%.
- The Office for Civil Society reduced the number of strategic partners it funds from 42 to 17 in 2011 (these represent voluntary and community organisations at the national level).¹
- The first payments of the New Homes Bonus were made in April 2011. 322 local authorities and 27 upper tier authorities have received payments and are now in discussions on how the money will be spent.



The Chartered Institute of Housing

HOUSING 2011 CONFERENCE



Housing 2011 Session Information

BACKGROUND

One of the coalition government's underpinning principles is localism; the devolution of choice, control and responsibility to local government and local communities. It will require active and participative local communities, building on some of the strong community and neighbourhood approaches that have been operating in some areas for many years. Government wants to see more of this activity in all local areas.

It also believes that allowing greater control by local communities over their local areas, together with new incentives, will mean local people will be more inclined to accept much needed development of new homes and businesses in their area. Its New Homes Bonus is one of the tools through which it aims to support that, as well as more proactive and locally sensitive planning. By ensuring that local people enjoy some of the benefits from the developments and /or services, it expects communities to accept and address local needs and priorities.

UPDATE

The Decentralisation and Localism Bill, due to become law late Autumn 2011, includes a range of powers for local communities to take up to deliver better services, use shared assets, drive forward development etc, in response to local aspirations.

The **community right to challenge** will enable voluntary/ community groups to propose taking over the running of local services, where they believe there is poor quality, poor value for money etc. Local people will also be able to trigger a **local referendum** over key local issues.

Local people, through a parish council or neighbourhood forum, will be able to set out what development they want and where, within their local area – in a **neighbourhood development plan**. These plans are intended to shape what will be developed rather than whether there will be development. These plans should meet the requirements of the national planning framework, and be in line with the local strategic vision. Where a neighbourhood plan meets these criteria, people can vote in a referendum and if a majority accept it the local authority will bring it into force. The **Community Right to Build**, where local people bring forward small developments, will enable the benefits to be retained by those local communities.

¹ Statistics CDF <http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/news-headline?id=455305>

OTHER INFORMATION

CIH's Resident Led Self Regulation reports look at how tenants and residents can influence their landlord and shape the services they receive. <http://www.cih.org/policy/free-publications.htm>

CIH's Localism and Big Society events (August 2011) give housing professionals the chance to explore the impacts, opportunities and challenges of localism and the Big Society on housing, communities and their roles. <http://www.cih.org/events/seminars/localism-2011/>

Active Learning for Residents is a programme that accredits the skills residents develop as they work to change their communities for the better. <http://www.cih.org/education/activelearning/>



Follow the latest on Twitter #housing2011