

PROGRAMME

Meeting the challenge: a conference for smaller housing associations

13th April 2016

Judges Court

Browns, 82-84 St Martins Lane, Covent Garden, London WC2N 4AG

The operating environment is changing beyond all recognition, representing the greatest challenge many will face in their entire careers. This event will explore the new horizon from a smaller housing association perspective so that you are in the best possible position to respond positively to the challenges.

Sessions aim to cut through seemingly bewildering changes so that you understand where you stand, how fellow smaller associations are responding and what you need to do:

- the latest on housing policy from the NHF and regulation from HCA
- interactive sessions that explore how smaller housing associations are:
 - reflecting the changes in revised business strategies, with a panel of CEOs and strategy, governance and finance specialist DTP
 - using different collaborative models to meet their objectives
- the latest on welfare reform and what you need to do from CIH

There will be ample opportunity to network with colleagues.



Morning

9:30 **Registration and refreshments**

10:00 **Chair's welcome and introduction**

Mandy Elliot, CE, Crosby HA

10:10 **Policy: where are we now?**

John Bryant, Policy Lead, NHF

Housing policy went through a lot of changes with the Coalition government. That was just a warm up. Since coming to power the Conservatives have changed the policy landscape in a bewildering manner. John will cut through the mass of policy changes, speculation and hyperbole and tell us exactly where we stand and what is yet to be decided.

10:50 **Regulation: all change?**

David Taylor-Smith, Assistant Director of Regulatory Operations, HCA

The HCA has signalled that it is to revisit, in 2016, the regulation of smaller housing associations on the basis that the 1,000 stock limit is somewhat artificial and that a more 'more nuanced system' is required. 2016 is also a big year for the HCA as a scheduled fundamental review of its purpose, core functions and resourcing will take place at the same time as the deregulatory package will be put in place. So what does all this mean for the HCA and smaller associations?

11:30 **Refreshment break**

11:45 **Meeting the challenge: business response panel session**

Sam McGrady, Director, DTP; Mandy Elliot, CE, Crosby HA; John Delahunty, CE, Innisfree HA and Graeme Foster, CE, Alpha Homes

Sam McGrady kicks us off with a helicopter view of how providers' business strategies are reflecting the 'new normal' and what boards and executives need to think about based on DTP's experience of working with many smaller associations. Our panel of CEs will provide a pen portrait of their business response and then there will be plenty of time for a Q&A.

1:00 **Lunch**



Afternoon

2:00 **Collaboration: different strokes**

John Ghader, CE, Pierhead Housing; Sue Philpott, Managing Director, Co-op Homes and Mike Wilkins, CE, Ducane HA

Often talked about, harder to do. But given the current environment, it's now a business imperative. Commitment, compromise, cheerfulness and acceptance of change are required to overcome the obstacles. What can we learn from North Western associations' efforts to jointly procure back office services; service models like Co-op Homes which cover everything but the board, and Ducane HA's positive experience of merger. Again lots of time for the Q&A.

3:15 **Welfare reform: what's the position and the implications?**

Sam Lister, Welfare Reform Lead, CIH

Sam's grasp of welfare reform, both policy and the implications for landlords, is unparalleled. Short-circuit days of effort trying to navigate the confusion and hearsay in 45 minutes. You'll understand what is happening and what you need to do.

4:00 **Close**