

Meeting the challenge: a conference for smaller housing associations

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.

Notes on brief:

- Pretty much summed up above – clarity on where we are with policy landscape – what we know for sure, what's still to be decided and thoughts on implications (in terms of latter being mindful of content of 11:45 session)
- Allow **10-15 mins for Qs**
- John – if you can stick around for the 11:45 session you could usefully input to Q&A

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?

Notes on brief:

- as discussed recently with David
- allow **10/15 mins for Qs**

- David – if you can stick around for the 11:45 session you could usefully input to Q&A

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.

Notes on brief:

- Presentations not essential for speakers as they each have **10 min** slot to provide their pen portraits – ie how their businesses are responding to the new environment, what are the critical issues? how has their strategy changed? DTP has **15 min** to provide helicopter view
- The idea is that speakers provide a primer to serve as the basis for **half-hour interactive Q&A** session with speakers as a panel – the aim is to explore with the audience the range of business response from the sector, what should they be thinking about (and doing) and address some of their queries, fears and concerns peer to peer
- **Sam** takes on chair role following her presentation so **Mandy** can do her 10 min slot as a speaker and so Mandy can fully participate in the panel Q&A.

1:00 Lunch

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.

Notes on brief:

- Each speaker has **15 mins**
 - Mike - positive experience of merger: why and what are the benefits/what problems have you overcome; nature of arrangement; learning from the process/top tips.
 - John – as per exchange 24/25 Jan –
 - project purpose, scope and update
 - overcoming the obstacles - making it work - can your model be duplicated/is it necessary to duplicate? Can people buy in?
 - John: 'I can share our journey, the ups and downs and CSF's that are required to make it work'
 - Sue – as per email exchanges 10/11 March
- As with morning session, we then have **half an hour Q&A/discussion** with speakers as a panel. Idea is to make it as interactive as possible with audience to tease out the issues associated with the various forms of collaboration (inc what works where) and how they are overcome. **Mandy** to chair 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.

Notes on brief:

- The usual please Sam – clarity on latest policy- what does it mean and what should HAs be doing?
- Allow **10/15 mins Qs**

4:00

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