

Press Release:

Northern Housing Consortium and Northern Architecture join forces on Age Friendly Communities in the North 2020

The Northern Housing Consortium is delighted to announce their partnership with Northern Architecture to launch phase two of their ***Age Friendly Communities in the North 2020 Project***.

This project is sponsored by Keepmoat, and the partnership with Northern Architecture forms part of a larger programme of work that the Northern Housing Consortium has carried out to explore what an age-friendly community might look like in 2020 and beyond. The aim is to provide support services and practical steps for members to take in response to this dynamic policy agenda.

The ageing population is being described as one of the most significant issues of the 21st century and probably the single greatest challenge facing Housing, Planning, Social Care and Health organisations over the next generation. There are now more pensioners than children - at a national level, older households make up almost a third of total households. And the majority (70%) own their own home, with only 5% in sheltered or care homes.

This latest phase of the project will explore, through a series of interactive workshops with members of the public, the aspirations and visions of residents around what is an age friendly neighbourhood and what needs to change to make neighbourhoods suitable for future needs. Charlotte Harrison, Director of Policy & Practice at Northern Housing Consortium commented, "We are very excited about this partnership and look forward to working with Northern Architecture on this innovative project, and sharing their knowledge and expertise in achieving higher standards around development and design, and bringing together key partners around the table to illustrate key features of an age friendly neighbourhood. The outcomes of the interactive workshops will inform a series of recommendations on the practical steps that Members can take to deliver age friendly communities in the North. The project has been very positively welcomed by CLG, by our members and their stakeholders. We look forward to publishing the final report in the autumn 2009".

For further details of the project and other outputs including discussion papers, reports, toolkit and forthcoming events please contact <http://www.northern-consortium.org.uk>

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Notes to editors

1. The Northern Housing Consortium is a non-political, not for profit, member based organisation, whose members between them manage almost 90% of social housing in the North. Our main roles are:
 - To provide a comprehensive range of timely, relevant and affordable services for members with a distinct focus on Northern issues
 - To take a lead role in enabling the improvement of housing and organisational performance in the North
 - To work with Government and other bodies to ensure the region benefits from the resources and funding available to provide safe, vibrant, sustainable communities
2. Northern Architecture's role is to promote high quality architecture and design of public space in the North East of England. We have two main aims:
 - To work with everyone involved in providing buildings and public spaces to achieve the highest standards of development and design.
 - To raise public expectations about architecture and design, stimulate public debate and provide opportunities for the public to become involved in the process of making architecture and public space.

3. Communities and Local Government sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue. We have responsibility for all race equality and community cohesion related issues in England and for building regulations, fire safety and some housing issues in England and Wales.

Our provision of support is delivered across four themed areas: Quality of Life, Quality of Place, Performance Improvement and Investment & Resources.

Further information can be found on our website at www.northern-consortium.org.uk