



Housing promises must not be delayed.

"Do not allow Whitehall to put the brakes on housing promises" warned Paul O'Brien Chief Executive of APSE in response to the possibility that the green paper on housing, announced in a flurry by Gordon Brown just last week, could already be subject to Whitehall delays.

Welcoming the moves by Brown to place housing back at the top of the political agenda, Mr O'Brien said that the Government's intention to allow councils to be at the heart of further investment in council house building and to keep revenue from rents to support further housing improvements, was **"Long over due"** and he added **"APSE had a lengthy dialogue with the Treasury about options around securitisation prior to CSR 2003 where the discussions never materialised into hard policy changes. Let us not repeat the mistakes of history. Unnecessary delays in allowing councils to simply get on with the job of meeting housing needs would be completely unacceptable to the vast majority of council leaders. Brown needs to put his foot on the gas and make change happen quickly"**

O'Brien added **"After years of political wrangling it seems Brown has cut through the waffle and is happy to give councils their place as key providers of homes. These much needed new homes will help tackle the desperation that young families and key workers face who are seeking good affordable homes from within the social rented sector"**.

Ends

- APSE has campaigned for the right for local councils to borrow against their future rental income in a process known as securitisation.
- APSE has also campaigned for councils to have full open choice about how to improve social rented homes to meet the Government's decent homes standard and for a successor to decent homes.
- APSE has developed a policy paper on a new 'Decent Neighbourhoods Standard' to ensure a holistic approach towards housing, the quality of the

local environment and development of sustainable and healthy communities to be integrated into housing strategies.

- APSE has welcomed the plans to develop new homes including up to 100,000 'eco homes' as a sensible response to climate change and housing need.
- APSE informed the work of the labour party housing policy forum in explaining the barriers to new build council homes and the need to revise the current restrictive financial framework to allow councils greater financial freedoms.
- APSE works with over 300 local authorities throughout the UK
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