



'Beginning of the end of national HRA' means more positive future for council housing

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is encouraging local authorities to work together to develop on a new housing finance formula, which could mean a more positive future for council housing.

Speaking at an event in London, organised in partnership between APSE and the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH), which brought some 75 key local authority decision-makers together to formulate their response to Government's consultation on reform of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), chief executive, Paul O'Brien, said:

'After ten years of lobbying to reform the hugely unpopular housing finance system, we are pleased to see the beginning of the end of the national HRA system. We want to work constructively with local authorities and central government to form a consensus to allow self-financing models to be made a reality as soon as possible. The next few months are vitally important as the consultation comes to an end and a new formula and debt settlement are discussed.'

He continued: 'We are encouraged by housing minister John Healey's commitment to reforming the system. This is a chance to make changes that are vital to the future of council housing. Alongside new building that is now under way in significant numbers for the first time in decades, this could be an opportunity for council housing to, once again, become a quality affordable option for all not just a safety net for some.'

Councillors and senior housing and finance officers from local authorities of all political colours across England met to discuss their response to the Government's consultation on the national HRA at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre on 5th October. The event followed an exercise by ConsultCIH, which enabled 56 APSE and ARCH members to estimate their position on debt under various scenarios.

APSE will work with members to inform its formal response the Government's consultation on HRA, which ends on 27th October.

For further information

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) works with over 300 local authorities throughout the UK who provide front-line services across the UK, including housing.

To arrange for interview of further comment please contact Mo Baines on mbaines@apse.org.uk

