

Press Release



Building homes and communities together in Nottingham

The future of housing in Nottingham was top of the agenda at a conference held on Friday October 17 in the heart of the city.

More than 150 representatives from across the city's public and private housing sectors came together with tenants and residents at the Albert Hall in Nottingham.

The conference, chaired by Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North, heard presentations from Sir Bob Kerslake, Chief Executive of the new Homes and Communities Agency, Cllr Alan Clark, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Regeneration, and Chris Langstaff, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Homes.

Chris Langstaff spoke passionately about the commitment Nottingham City Homes has made to improving services, the upcoming Audit Commission inspection and the prospect of a £243m investment in improving thousands of council homes.

He said: "It was great to see so many organisations, tenants and leaseholders come together to look at the future of housing in Nottingham. Our Secure ♦ Warm ♦ Modern programme will improve thousands of council homes across the city, but it is not just all about

bricks and mortar. We must work together to improve people's lives and their communities."

Sir Bob Kerlake, Chief Executive of the new Homes and Communities Agency addressed the conference. He explained the agency's ambitions and plans for the future of housing across Nottingham*.

Also speaking was Cllr Alan Clark. He outlined his top six priorities for the future of neighbourhood regeneration, showed his support for the work being done under the Secure ♦ Warm ♦ Modern programme and highlighted the importance of ward councillors to understand the needs of communities.

Local tenant, Catherine Shenton, was at the conference. She said: "I was really pleased to see so many people who truly care about housing and improving communities across Nottingham. I believe that together they can all make a difference."

Delegates also had a chance to put questions to the panel of speakers before going into workshops where groups looked into our decent homes programme, community empowerment, creating cohesive communities, delivering homes through partnerships, early intervention and the private rented sector.

The Housing Strategic Partnership has committed to hosting an annual event to report back on the progress made in housing across Nottingham.

Ends

Notes to editors:

* The Homes and Communities Agency is a new housing and regeneration agency for England, which will create:

- opportunities for people to live in affordable homes in places that they want to live in
- the chance for local authorities and communities to deliver the ambitions they have for their own area.

It will join up the delivery of housing and regeneration, bringing together the functions of English Partnerships, the investment functions of the Housing Corporation, the Academy for Sustainable Communities and key housing and regeneration programmes delivered by Communities and Local Government.

Nottingham City Homes was created on 1st April 2005 as an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) to manage Nottingham City Council's rented and leasehold homes. We are now working hard towards bringing Nottingham's council houses up to the Government's Decent Homes standard by 2013.

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