

English Partnerships Chair to challenge complacency within housing sector's sustainability drive

Robert Napier, the chair of the government's national regeneration agency, English Partnerships will warn social landlords that there is no room for complacency in the drive to create sustainable homes at Procurement for Housing's annual conference on 13 May.

Delivering the key note speech at the conference, Robert Napier will urge housing providers that quality and sustainability must not be marginalised in the push to build 3 million new homes by 2020.

Robert Napier said: *"I am keen to talk to housing professionals at this critical time in the housing market, and as we at EP move towards the new Homes and Communities Agency. We need more homes in England and we need to tackle climate change. It's as simple as that, and far from being incompatible, the twin aims can and should be tackled together. Embedding environmental sustainability as an integral part of wider sustainability within a major national building programme is exactly the route we should be taking. Effective and efficient procurement has a major role to play in achieving success."*

Robert Napier will join other speakers at the conference, including Sarah Webb - CIH Chief Executive and Bob Ledsome - Deputy Director, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Communities and Local Government, to examine why sustainability will become increasingly important in helping social housing organisations achieve their efficiency targets. The conference will prove that sustainability doesn't have to cost more, showing delegates ways they can integrate sustainability with efficiency in their procurement strategies.

Robert Napier continues, *"This conference is a great opportunity to further the debate about how we can deliver better quality homes that will last generations in safe and dynamic neighbourhoods and communities. Are we really geared up to achieving long-term value, and do we really know whether our customers are satisfied with what they receive? I believe the answer is yes for the most part, but there's always room for improvement and simply no room for complacency."*

www.procurementforhousing.co.uk

Media enquiries: Rowan Atkins M: 07834 158 725 E: rowan@rowanatkins.co.uk

Editor's Notes:

PfH's 3rd Annual Conference and Exhibition

Tuesday 13 May 2008, International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

The conference is open to all housing organisations including PfH Members and non-Members. To register call 01457 891 906 or email info@procurementforhousing.co.uk

Book your delegate place at the Member rate of £185 / non-Member rate of £260 by emailing the PfH Team: info@procurementforhousing.co.uk

Speakers

- **Sarah Webb**, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Housing
- **Robert Napier**, Chairman, English Partnerships
- **Brian Cronin**, Group Chief Executive, Arena Housing Group and Chair of PfH Advisory Committee
- **Bob Ledsome**, Deputy Director, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Communities and Local Government
- **Erik Bichard**, Professor of Regeneration and Sustainable Development, University of Salford School of the Built Environment

Sub-plenary Sessions

- **Waste watchers:** Is your organisation waste legislation and tax future-proof?.
- **Golden Green:** How PfH Member Drum Housing Association won the Housing Corporation Gold Award for Environmental Sustainability.
- **Inclusive Energy:** How the PfH Tenant Energy Scheme will deliver on financial inclusion and sustainability.
- **Retro remedy:** The key procurement steps to delivering sustainable retro-fit homes.
- **Local source:** Is it possible to achieve nationally agreed terms and support your local merchant?
- **e-Procurement for Housing:** How PfH's e-procurement system will drive the future of sustainable efficiency for the sector.

Exhibition

With 40 exhibitors representing 23 agreements, the PfH Exhibition is your chance to quiz suppliers face to face, identify fresh efficiency opportunities and get the latest information on new agreements.

The Exhibition will be open: 9.30-10.30am, 12-1pm, 1.45-2.15pm

English Partnerships

English Partnerships is the national regeneration agency helping the Government to support high quality sustainable growth in England by creating well-served mixed communities where people enjoy living and working.

In collaboration with the Housing Corporation and Communities and Local Government (CLG), English Partnerships is establishing the new Homes and Communities Agency that will begin operating in 2009.

For more information on our work, please visit www.englishpartnerships.co.uk.

Procurement for Housing

PfH is the only national procurement organisation dedicated to the needs of the social housing sector. Following a successful two-year pilot, the National Housing Federation, Chartered Institute of Housing and HouseMark officially launched it in March 2004. The Housing Corporation also supports PfH.

PfH has been created as an essential business tool to generate substantial savings by harnessing the collective purchasing power of housing organisations. By reducing procurement costs, organisations can reinvest resources in front-line services, decent homes and vibrant neighbourhoods.

PfH currently has over 610 Members collectively managing over 2.6 million units, making PfH's purchasing power unparalleled in the sector. The consortium provides services in the following product areas: Office Supplies; Print Management & Design Services; Communication Services (Mobiles, Landline & Data), Personal Computers; Photocopying Equipment & Services; Energy; Vehicle Leasing; Central Heating Supplies; Janitorial Supplies; Bathrooms; Knowledge Based Services - Consultancy; Residential Furniture & Furnishings; Workwear & Personal Protective Equipment; Decorating Vouchers; Domestic Appliances; Kitchens; Knowledge Based Services – Workshops; Digital TV Reception Systems and Agency Labour.

PfH Membership

Any social housing organisation (including Housing Associations, LSVTs, ALMOs, and Local Authorities) can become a Member of PfH by paying a small fee based on the number of housing units they manage. HouseMark subscribers are eligible for free Membership.

Management of PfH

PfH is managed by specialist contractor Collective Enterprises Limited (CEL) – selected following an open tendering procedure through the Official Journal of the European Union. CEL has significant experience of collective purchasing in both the public and private sectors. The quality of the contractor's work is monitored and assured by HouseMark – the performance improvement subsidiary of the Chartered Institute of Housing. Further information can be obtained by visiting the website at: **www.procurementforhousing.co.uk**

Media enquiries: Rowan Atkins M: 07834 158 725 E: rowan@rowanatkins.co.uk