

## News Update – August 2018

**This update includes the following topics:**

- ‘A new deal for social housing’ - Social Housing Green Paper – key points
- Use of receipts from Right to Buy Sales – consultation
- Announcement clarifying future funding arrangements for supported housing
- Rough Sleeping Strategy launched
- CWAG AGM – further details

### Social Housing Green Paper

The long anticipated Social Housing Green Paper [‘A new deal for social housing’](#) was finally published on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018. It was the culmination of a series of announcements and publications that formed part of MHCLG’s Housing Week. Publication of a Green Paper during the Parliamentary Recess is unusual but in this case a welcome opportunity to take forward the wider debate, initiated in the period immediately following the Grenfell Fire, around the future direction of social housing.

The Green Paper represents a reappraisal of policy on social housing - starting with an acknowledgment that *‘successive governments, of all political colours, have failed to consider sufficiently the roll social housing plays in a modern mixed tenure housing market’*.

The consultation sets out a series of measures that aim to change the way social housing is run, managed and viewed.

The Green Paper identifies five key principles that will underpin a fairer deal for social housing residents:

- A safe and decent home which is fundamental to a sense of security and our ability to get on in life;
- Improving and speeding up how complaints are resolved;
- Empowering residents and ensuring their voices are heard so that landlords are held to account;
- Tackling stigma and celebrating thriving communities, challenging the stereotypes that exist about residents and their communities, and
- Building the social homes that we need and ensuring that those homes can act as a springboard to home ownership.

A separate chapter examines each of these principles, setting out proposals and questions on which views and feedback is sought.

#### [Key Points](#)

The CWAG Executive will be considering the Group’s response to the Green Paper at their meeting on 11th September 2018.

**The consultation runs for 12 weeks – closing date 6th November 2018**

## Use of receipts from Right to Buy Sales – consultation

Published alongside the Social Housing Green Paper, this [consultation](#) was initially promised in a Ministerial Statement from Dominic Raab in March this year. It proposes a number of reforms to existing arrangements for using Right to Buy sales receipts that are widely regarded as a barrier to the delivery of new homes by local councils.

This is an 8 week consultation closing on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### [Key Points](#)

## Announcement clarifying future funding arrangements for supported housing

On 9th August 2018 the Government announced the outcome two earlier consultations on the future funding of supported housing.

The Government has taken into account feedback received and has unexpectedly opted to retain current arrangements with funding through the welfare system. This means residents will continue to claim housing benefit, with their rent normally paid directly to their landlord.

Alongside this, the Government will work with providers, local authorities, membership bodies and resident representatives over the coming months to develop a robust oversight regime.

[View Government Press Release](#)

## Rough Sleeping Strategy launched

The Conservative 2017 Election Manifesto included a commitment to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it entirely by 2027.

The [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) launched on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 sets out in detail how the Government plans to achieve this.

The strategy is backed up by £100 million of funding in the next two years, however the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, has admitted that this is not new money.

## CWAG AGM – further details

*Venue: Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD*

*Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

*Time: 11a.m – 3p.m*

We are delighted to announce that **Helen Kelly who led on the Social Housing Green Paper at MHCLG** has agreed to speak at the AGM. This is a really good opportunity to discuss some of the issues within the Green Paper that really matter to councils.

The keynote presentation will be given by **John Boughton**, a housing blogger who is passionate about the importance of council housing and whose recent book '**Municipal Dreams – the rise and fall of council housing**' makes a significant contribution to the current debate about council housing.

Through his blog and this book John examines current housing issues within a wider historical context, championing the achievements of council housing to provide good places to live, both in the past and the future.

In addition, there are now a couple of **vacancies on the CWAG Executive Group** and we would like to encourage nominations for these roles. If you would like more information about what Executive Group membership involves please contact the Policy Officer.

**Reminder – the CWAG Website now has a new URL**

<http://www.councilswithalms.co.uk/>