

News Update – November 2018

This update includes the following topics:

- Responding to the Social Housing Green Paper
- CIH launches rethinking allocations project
- Review of the CWAG website
- LGA Business Ready Springboard Programme
- Members' Noticeboard – CWAG Website
- Recent Publications / New in the Library

Responding to the Social Housing Green Paper

Although the deadline for formal responses to the Green Paper closed on 6th November 2018, CWAG is involved in a number of on-going initiatives taking forward key themes highlighted within the Green Paper:

Consumer Standard Project Group

CWAG is involved in ongoing discussions with the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA), the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) and Housemark on how the sector can contribute to developing a workable set of Performance Indicators. The most recent meeting also involved the Ombudsman and the Local Government Association (LGA) and National Housing Federation.

This group is looking at a range of issues including tenant engagement, cross sector and domain comparability, the potential inclusion of leaseholders and PRS tenants in safety standards in council freeholds as well as how to reflect the importance of neighbourhood and locality in customer satisfaction measures and tackling stigma.

Initial indications are that MHCLG is keen to introduce League Tables but feedback from tenants seems to be more lukewarm on this.

There are also ongoing discussions around how enhanced Regulation would be managed between councils and ALMOs. There is general agreement that the Regulatory relationship would be with councils as the owning body; but if the league tables are going to be the Regulatory indicator, we need to look at what feeds into those indicators and how they are derived. ALMOs and TMOs are contractors and councils need to manage that relationship in terms of performance. However tenants need to understand how responsibilities are split so they know whom to approach for what on practical day to day issues and how any escalation is handled.

CWAG Contact – Ceri Davies Ceri.Davies@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

NFA Working Group on Performance Indicators

This group will consider the operational issues for councils and ALMOs around Performance Indicators (PIs) and consumer standards. Although this is an NFA working group CWAG will also be represented. The first meeting is scheduled for 28th November 2018.

Meeting with RSH

Jonathan Walters, Deputy Director from the Regulator of Social Housing, attended the CWAG Executive on 9th November 2018 to discuss the possible implications of the Green Paper for future regulation of the council /ALMO sector. Once the proposals for future regulatory arrangements are clearer, we will invite a representative of the Regulator to attend a future General Meeting for a discussion with the wider membership.

Discussions with MHCLG

CWAG is also involved in various discussions with officials from MHCLG on the following issues:

- Changes to the Decent Homes Standard
- TMO and ALMO management issues

Read the CWAG and LGA Green Paper responses:

[‘A new deal for social housing’ Green Paper – CWAG response](#)

[‘A new deal for social housing’ green paper - LGA response](#)

CIH launches ‘Rethinking Allocations’ Project

Building on the [Rethinking Social Housing project](#), CIH has launched [Rethinking Allocations](#) which aims to analyse what social landlords and councils are currently doing and stimulate debate about how things could be improved.

Councils and social landlords are being invited to [take part in an online survey](#) to share their experiences. The survey closes on Friday 23 November.

Review of CWAG Website

In response to the feedback received as part of the annual members’ survey, we will be undertaking a review and update of the CWAG website over the next few months.

The survey highlighted the following priorities:

- Good access to a library of information relating to ALMO activities and issues.
- An interactive members forum
- Good access to information around policy current issues
- Access to good practice and contacts within the group

If you would be interested in contributing to this review by joining the small steering group overseeing this work and providing feedback on proposals, please contact the Policy Officer for further details.

LGA Business Ready Springboard Programme

The LGA and the Housing and Finance Institute have launched the Housing Business Ready Springboard programme. The programme is designed to support councils in developing their new build capacity. Councils will have the opportunity to present and get tips from experts in their field, including investors, professional services, housebuilders and others. [More](#)

CWAG Website – Members’ Noticeboard

The [Noticeboard](#) area now includes the following general information:

- Information on the current status of all current and previous ALMOs
- Executive lead roles on current issues
- CWAG members stock numbers from 2016/ 17 LAHS data

Finance and Business Planning Meeting – 7th December 2018

The next CWAG event is a Finance and Business Planning Meeting which is being held at the Laycock Development Centre in Islington on Friday 7th December 2018.

The meeting will be facilitated by Steve Partridge, Director Housing Consultancy at Savills. There are a couple of places still remaining. If you would be interested in attending please contact the Policy Officer.

Recent Publications /New in the Library

[Budget 2018 – Summary of Housing Measures](#)

[LGA response to MHCLG consultation on rents for social housing from 2020-21](#)

[Innovation in Council House Building – Research findings into council housebuilding – case studies and learning points from action on the ground - LGA Publication](#)

[Final Report - Independent review of build out - Sir Oliver Letwin MP](#)

Twitter

We are on [twitter @CWAGUK](#)

If you are on twitter please follow the CWAG account