

## Local Democracy, Communities and Development

June/July 2009

We are holding a series of seminars on Local Democracy, Communities and Development during June and July 2009. These will consider the new Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 plus updates on the work of the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority since they started work in December 2008.

### Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

This Act is likely to become law in the spring and gives local people new rights to shape local services and gives greater responsibility to local authorities to promote economic development helping communities respond to local challenges. The Act includes:

- **A Duty to promote democracy.** The duty will ensure councils raise awareness of their work and services so people can find out and understand how decisions are made, how to make their voice heard and how to stand for a civic role
- **A Duty on local authorities to respond to petitions.** Designed to improve transparency in local decision-making and the extent to which citizens feel able to influence local decisions
- **Extending the duty to involve.** Growing evidence highlights that involving citizens in local decisions and services affecting them is an effective way of driving up performance
- **Providing funding for a National Tenant Voice.** To ensure tenants' views are central to decision-making processes, particularly of the Tenant Services Authority
- **Strengthening overview and scrutiny.** To boost capacity and raise awareness of overview and scrutiny through the creation of a scrutiny officer and broadening the scope of what joint overview and scrutiny committees can consider
- **Other implications:** Making the Boundary Committee for England an independent body and separate from the Electoral Commission; A Duty on local authorities to undertake an economic assessment of their area; A New Regional Strategy for each English region (except London); New powers to create 'Economic Prosperity Boards'; Allowing the creation of Multi Area Agreements with statutory duties

### Updates on the work of the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority

The 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act established the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority. This session will provide an update on the work of both bodies including: Progress with the Homes & Communities Agency's single conversation, New funding programmes being promoted by the Homes & Communities Agency, How the Homes & Communities Agency is responding to the 'credit crunch', The Tenant Services Authority's national conversation with tenants, Draft Tenant Services Authority standards, How will local authority housing be regulated after April 2010? How are housing associations responding to the credit crunch and the Tenant Services Authority's response?

The course is accompanied by a very useful guide written exclusively for the course by Stephen Harriott entitled: "**Local Democracy, Communities and Development**"

### Venues and Dates:

**North:** Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009

**London:** Ibis Hotel, Euston – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Midlands:** Connaught Hotel, Wolverhampton – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009

Appleby Business Centre, Bridge Street, Appleby in Westmorland, Cumbria. CA16 6QH.

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## **The Programme**

- 10.00 Introduction: The Tenant Services Authority; An update on its works since December 2008; The National Conversation; Standards for housing providers; Regulating local authorities; Regulatory Judgements; Enforcement powers; The Tenant Services Authority's response to the Credit Crunch.
- 11.00 BREAK
- 11.15 Housing and Communities Agency: An update on its work since December 2008; The single conversation; Funding proposals; The Homes & Communities Agency's response to the credit crunch.
- 12.30 LUNCH
- 13.30 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009:
  - Local Democracy proposals
  - Economic Development proposals
- 14.45 BREAK
- 15.00 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
  - The National Tenants Voice
  - Construction proposals
- Conclusions
- 16.00 CLOSE

This seminar is designed for people who wish to understand what the Homes & Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority have achieved since they were set up in December 2008; and for people who want to understand the implications of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

It is suitable for Local Councillors, Housing Association Board Members, ALMO Board Members, Housing Managers, Finance Managers, Tenant Representatives and others with an interest in social housing and local government.

This course is also available in-house. For further information about in-house courses, please contact Adrian Waite on 017683-52165 or 52347 or [Adrian.waite@awics.co.uk](mailto:Adrian.waite@awics.co.uk).

Please note that there are free briefing papers on housing finance posted on the 'AWICS' website at:

[http://awics.co.uk/View/Page/briefing\\_papers/](http://awics.co.uk/View/Page/briefing_papers/)



**Adrian Waite (Independent Consultancy Services) Limited**

**Our speaker **Steve Harriott** is well known for his in-depth knowledge of this subject and for his ability to present information clearly.**

**Steve Harriott** is an Associate Consultant with 'AWICS' specialising in Housing Management and offering training and consultancy services to a broad range of clients.

He graduated from Oxford University with an Honours degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics in 1981. He also has a Masters degree in Strategy and Resource Management and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing. He has worked in a range of housing management posts for: CDS Co-operative Housing Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Northumbria University, Phoenix Housing Association, Tees Valley Housing Association and English Churches Housing Group.

He joined St Pancras & Humanist Housing Association in 2000 as Chief Executive and created the Origin Housing Group with Griffin Housing Association and became its first Group Chief Executive. He moved to Amicus Group in 2004 as Group Chief Executive and became the first Group Chief Executive of the merged AmicusHorizon Group. As Chief Executive, Steve secured Housing Corporation Development Partner status for Amicus and Amicus-Horizon; established a successful Procurement Unit; created the Southeast Procurement Consortium in 2007; developed a comprehensive approach to strategic and operational planning that was embedded across the Group; and established a Group wide performance management framework including a comprehensive suite of balanced scorecards.

He left Amicus-Horizon in 2007 for a new career in training and consultancy.

Steve is a Trustee of Chatham Maritime Trust and is a former Chair of the Northern Counties Branch of the Chartered Institute of Housing. He is the joint author of the Chartered Institute of Housing's textbook "Introducing Social Housing"; and of the 'AWICS' publications: 'Achieving Efficiencies and Value for Money in Social Housing' and 'Implementing the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008'. He lectures at the University of Greenwich and is a former external examiner of the housing courses at the University of Greenwich. He is Chair of Chatham Maritime Estates Ltd.

### **About 'AWICS'**

'AWICS' provides a full range of ethical management consultancy and training services, principally to those who are involved in social housing.

Our mission statement is 'Independence, Integrity, Value'. We therefore provide training from an independent standpoint that is designed to help the client to achieve their objectives. We are passionate about working with the utmost integrity. We believe that we offer the best value for money that is available today!

And we publish the popular free e-newsletter for public services – the 'Public Services News'. We are big enough to make a difference – but are small enough to care!

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**Managing Director: Adrian Waite MA CPFA ACIH FIPSM**  
**Company Number: 3713554. VAT Registration Number: 721 9669 13**

Adrian Waite (Independent Consultancy Services) Limited

## Local Democracy, Communities and Development

### How to reserve your place

- **By Fax:** Fax us on 017683-54005
- **By post:** Complete this form and send it to:  
AWICS Ltd, Appleby Business Centre, Appleby in Westmorland, Cumbria. CA16 6QH.
- **On line:** You can download this form from:  
[http://awics.co.uk/RegionalSeminars/ViewCourse/local\\_democracy\\_communities\\_and\\_development](http://awics.co.uk/RegionalSeminars/ViewCourse/local_democracy_communities_and_development), fill it in electronically and forward to: [seminars@awics.co.uk](mailto:seminars@awics.co.uk)
- **By Phone:** Please telephone us on 017683-52165 or 52347

**Do not send any payment:** We will confirm your booking and send an invoice.

### Delegate fees:

The cost of this seminar is £260 in London and £230 at other venues plus VAT making a total of £299 in London and £264.50 at the other venues. The fee includes lunch\* and book – 'Implementing the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008'.

\* Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements

**Delegate Name**                      **Position and Department**

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To enrol additional delegates, please photocopy this form.

Please state which venue and date you require \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person booking \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dept and Organisation \_\_\_\_\_ Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if your delegate has any particular needs.

### Booking conditions:

**Cancellations and substitutions:** A full refund will be given up to 28 days before the seminar. There after a 50% refund up to 14 days before the seminar. We regret that no refund can be given 14 days or less before the seminar.

Cancellations must be made in writing or by email and be acknowledged by AWICS.

No refund will be given for non-attendance, but delegates may substitute another delegate at any time.

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