



Coventry City Council

6f

Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

16th November 2011

REPORT OF: Councillor Linda Bigham

TITLE: What Future For Social and Affordable Housing

DATE: 04 December 2009

VENUE: Royal Commonwealth Society, London

1. Recommendation

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to accept this seminar report as showing the value of members with particular responsibilities attending seminars and conferences which give engagement with experts.

2. Background

This was a seminar I was invited to attend because of my shadow housing responsibility and membership of WMRA Housing Executive and Partnership.

3. Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	£287.50	£287.50
Flights	NIL	NIL
Additional Travel Expenses	£123.60	£123.60
Accommodation	NIL	NIL
Subsistence	NIL	NIL

4. Benefits

This was an extremely useful and interesting event with a good deal of engagement (questions and answers) mixed in with presentations from influential and knowledgeable experts in the field.

1. The seminar examined how progression in house build could be maintained during a recession and the best methods of delivering targets and standards.
2. Richard McCarthy (Department for Communities and Local Government) spoke clearly on the need for more housing land because of the rise in population and households. He spoke of the need for urgency in 'unlocking' public land so that the supply in each local authority could be increased as swiftly as possible.
3. Richard Marsh of The Tenant Services Authority said 'Five million people are on housing lists for affordable housing.' He gave a list of what was important for elected members and officers to take into account when considering new social/affordable housing: 'Improve standards of service delivery for tenants. Support 'decent' homes and neighbourhoods. Promote effective tenant involvement and empowerment. Ensure providers are well run and deliver value for money. Promote and protect public and private investment. Encourage and support a supply of well managed social housing.'
4. Of particular interest was the speech made by Richard Capie of the Chartered Institute of Housing who spoke on better management of existing stock especially with regard to empty homes and the impact that could be made by bringing them back into use.

List of background papers

Proper Officer: Councillor Linda Bigham

Author: Councillor Linda Bigham

Tel Number: 024 7683 3883
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors: None

Papers open to public inspection

Description of paper: Report Back on Conference/Seminar

Location: CH60