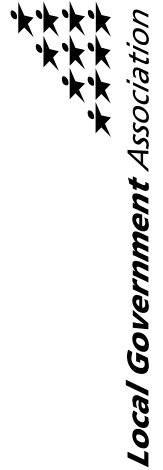


To:
Chief Executives (all local authorities including Wales)
Clerks to Police, Joint Fire and Transport Authorities

Please circulate to:

Cabinet members and portfolio holders for housing and finance, Directors and Chief Officers of Housing and Finance



**Housing Finance Conference – one year on
Tuesday, 20th October 2009
Local Government House, London
7 October 2009**

***Your chance to help shape the LGA's stance -
Discounted member delegate fee offer***

Dear colleague,

In June this year, we launched our major housing policy paper *Local Housing, Local Solutions: the case for self-determination*. It argues that the current system of funding council housing is unfair, ineffective, promotes a short term approach to investment and is underfunded. The report called on the government to replace the Housing Revenue Account with a fairer, more efficient localised system. 65 MPs from all parties signed an Early Day Motion supporting our proposals, and on 30th June, John Healey announced that he would be consulting on dismantling the housing finance system. His department's detailed proposals are now out for consultation until the end of October.

The current consultation on the reform of housing finance is a once in a generation opportunity to fundamentally change the local government finance system.

As part of our work on this important issue, the LGA is holding a conference on 20th October, at Local Government House. The conference is essential attendance for any authority with a Housing Revenue Account and is timed to give you the opportunity to influence the main political parties, including the chance to inform the current Housing Minister about your opinion on the consultation and what you want from a reformed Housing Finance System.

The LGA is keen to see the strongest possible attendance from the sector to the conference. We are, therefore, offering half-price attendance to members booking, where a fully paying officer from the same authority is in attendance. We hope very much your council can be represented.

Bookings can be made via fax: 0207 863 9158 or book on-line at www.lga.gov.uk – events and meetings.

LGalert xxx/xx

housing finance conference – one year on

Tuesday 20 October 2009

Local Government House
Conference Centre
Smith Square [Dean Bradley Street entrance]
LONDON SW1P 3HZ

Speakers include:

Rt Hon John Healey MP,
Minister for Housing and
Planning
Steve Partridge, Chartered
Institute of Housing

Ken Lee, Chartered Institute of
Public Finance and
Accountancy
Mike Owen, Cornwall Council
Brian Reilly, Wandsworth
Council
Sarah Teather MP, Shadow
Housing Minister

Housing Finance Conference – one year on

In June, LGA Chairman, Cllr Margaret Eaton, launched the LGA's major housing policy paper, 'Local Solutions: the case for self-determination'. This noted that the current system of funding council housing is unfair, ineffective, promotes a short-term approach to investment and is underfunded.

The report asks that councils be released from this inefficient system and calls on the government to replace the Housing Revenue Account with a fairer, more efficient localised system. This would give councils financial self determination where feasible, but would also allow support for those councils who do not find this viable, enabling all councils to invest in their housing and contribute to local economies.

The Government has responded to this call and on the 30th June 2009 the Rt Hon John Healey MP, Minister for Housing, announced at the LGA's Annual Conference a dismantling of the housing finance system.

The Minister announced his intention to publish a consultation document before summer recess on reform of council housing finance, replacing the current system with a devolved system of responsibility and funding. This consultation paper is due to be published this week.

This conference will consider the implications of this consultation paper on the sustainability of council housing services. The conference will give delegates the chance to hear the latest thinking from key Government players and politicians and from the leading experts on housing finance. This event will give delegates a chance to get an early indication of the likely outcome from the consultation and its effect on them. It will also be a chance to help develop the LGAs response to the consultation paper and will give delegates the opportunity to put their views to key players in the sector and influence the outcome of the Consultation for themselves.

For further information contact LGconnect (for programme details) on 020 7664 3131 or email info@lga.gov.uk.

Delegate booking forms are available on the LGA website at www.lga.gov.uk/events.

Online booking is available.

The LGA represents the local authorities in England and Wales – serving over 50 million people, spending £75bn every year on local services.

The LGA organises over 100 conferences, events and seminars every year attracting thousands of participants from local government, the business and voluntary sectors. Visit the LGA's website at www.lga.gov.uk for the latest updates on key developments in local government.

who should attend?

- chief executives
- cabinet member for housing and finance
- directors of housing
- chief officers of housing

The morning programme

10:00 – 10:30 Registration and refreshments

10:30 – 10:40 Chairman's welcome

Cllr Mike Haines, Deputy Chairman, LGA Environment Board

10:40 – 11:05 Plenary 1: Ministerial Address

Rt Hon John Healey MP, Minister for Housing and Planning

11:05 – 11:20 Question & Answer Session

Plenary 2: Expert Panel

11:20 – 11:35 **Steve Partridge**, Chartered Institute of Housing

11:35 – 11:50 **Ken Lee**, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

11:50 – 12:05 Question & Answer Session

12:05 – 12:25 Plenary 3: Opposition Speaker

12:25 – 12:35 Question & Answer Session

12:35 – 1:20 Lunch

The afternoon programme

Chairman's welcome back to the afternoon session

Plenary 4: ALMO / Retained

1:20 – 1:35 **Mike Owen**, Cornwall Council

1:35 – 1:50 **Brian Reilly**, Wandsworth Council

1:50 – 2:05 Question and Answer Session

Plenary 5: Liberal Democrat presentation

2:05 – 2:25 **Sarah Teather MP**, Shadow Housing Minister

2:25 – 2:35 Question & Answer Session

2:35 – 3:35 Workshop Sessions

Workshop 1 - Debt

Workshop 2 - Business Planning for self-financing

Workshop 3 - New Build

Workshop 4 - Influencing the political debate

3:35 – 3:45 Chairman's Closing summary and close of Conference

delegate booking form

Housing Finance Conference – one year on

Tuesday, 20th October 2009 – Local Government House, London

Please copy this form if you are sending more than two delegates.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Registration: Please complete, sign and return by fax or post to: The LGA Conference Department, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ, Tel: 020 7664 3131, Fax: 020 7863 9158, Email: events@lga.gov.uk

Confirmation: By completing this booking form you are indicating you wish to attend an LGA conference. If there are places available you will receive booking confirmation/joining instructions in due course *via email*. If there is limited or no availability you will be advised within two working days that you have been put on a waiting list.

Substitute delegates are welcome and name changes are to be advised in writing via email or fax. **Invoicing** will generally reflect the delegate who attended the conference unless a name change is received after invoicing. The LGA expects invoices to be paid as per the original delegate booking.

Name of Organisation:

Address to which delegate packs should be sent:

Postcode:

Contact Name:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

Title (Cllr/Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss)

Delegate's Name

Designation

Email:

Facilities/information requested (please tick as applicable)

- Vegetarian diet Vegan diet Wheelchair access
 Induction loop Large print Other

Title (Cllr/Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss)

Delegate's Name

Designation

Email:

Facilities/information requested (please tick as applicable)

- Vegetarian diet Vegan diet Wheelchair access
 Induction loop Large print Other

Purchase order numbers must be provided with the booking form if required by your organisation. It cannot be guaranteed that purchase order numbers will be included on the invoice if received at a different time to the booking form.

Cancellation must be advised in writing via email or fax. It will not be possible to return fees if notification of cancellation is received after **6 October 2009**. Any bookings received and subsequently cancelled after this date will be subject to the full conference fee. Please also note that conference fees cannot be refunded due to delegate's last minute illness or any changes to personal circumstances.

Note It may be necessary for reasons beyond the control of the LGA to change the content, timing, speakers or the venue for this conference. Please be advised that the LGA can not be held responsible for any travel costs incurred should a conference be postponed or cancelled.

You can also **book online** and sign up for the LGA conference & events **monthly e-bulletin** here: www.lga.gov.uk/events

Payment: Rate per delegate (please tick as appropriate)

- LGA Member Rate
£219.00 plus £32.85 VAT. Total £251.85
 Non LGA Member Rate
£345.00 plus £51.75 VAT. Total £396.75
 Order No.

How did you hear about this event? (please specify below)

- Direct mail email other _____

Community/Voluntary Sector Rate

A limited number of places are available for representatives from small community and voluntary organisations at a reduced rate. Please contact the Conference Administrator at the address above for further details.

Please tick as appropriate. Please also ensure remittance advice contains full event details.

- I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to the Local Government Association
 Please invoice us for £ _____ quoting ref: **C5509**
 Please forward a VAT receipt in due course
 By BACS: to Nat West, sort code 56-00-20 a/c number 24575607

A VAT receipt will be sent to you in due course – LGA VAT No. 676078107

Signature _____

Date _____

Unfortunately we are unable to accept telephone bookings but fax bookings are acceptable.

Data Protection Act 1998 – The LGA Group handles personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Sometimes we may pass on your details to third parties for marketing purposes or for mailing information about goods and services that we believe may be of interest to you.

If you **do not** wish this information to be used by **third parties** for these purposes please indicate this by placing a cross in the box

If you **do not** wish to be notified about future **LGA conferences and events** please indicate by placing a cross in the box