



PRESS RELEASE

5th May 2011

ARCH DEMONSTRATES THE BENEFITS OF BUILDING NEW COUNCIL HOMES

The Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) has launched a report showcasing the achievements of local authorities in building new homes and putting the business case for further investment.

The report *Firm Foundations: The holistic benefits of house-building by stock retained councils* puts the case for building new council homes. The report includes case studies demonstrating the achievements of ARCH member authorities in building to high standards within tight deadlines required by the Homes and Communities Agency's Local Authority New Build fund. It shows the value for money provided by council building and the wider social and environmental benefits of stock retained authorities being direct providers of new homes.

Ted Czerniak, ARCH executive member and director of housing and leisure services at Broxtowe Borough Council, which has been a national trailblazer for council building, said: 'ARCH has lobbied for opportunities for local authorities to build homes. This publication provides useful evidence in continuing to make the case for investment in council housing. Local authorities can provide good value for money. Council building is not only a means of meeting ever-growing housing needs; it is a way of boosting the economy and saving public resources currently spent dealing with the consequences of homelessness and inadequate housing.' He added: 'ARCH members work in partnership with a range of bodies and we view council housing as complementary to rather than as a replacement for other housing provision.'

Case studies featured in the report include:

- In Bournemouth, revenue savings of up to £167k a year are expected from providing high quality care for older people.
- Development of new homes in Corby shows the importance of community involvement, environmental responsibility and partnership.
- Building large, attractive homes in Croydon is having a positive impact on the local economy and skills as well as meeting a need for family-sized accommodation.
- Exeter City Council's new flats are providing innovative, energy efficient homes for over-55's and freeing up larger properties for families.
- North Kesteven is proving an exemplar in environmentally friendly construction by

building the first council houses in the UK to use a straw construction method
- New homes being built by Oxford City Council have cutting-edge sustainability features as well as high quality design standards.

The report, which is a follow up to *Under One Roof: The holistic benefits of stock retained council housing*, was commissioned by ARCH and produced by the Association for Public Service Excellence.

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