



ARCH PRESS RELEASE

21st November 2011

ARCH comment on new housing strategy

The Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) has welcomed publication of the Government's national housing strategy.

Laying the foundations; a housing strategy for England, launched today by Prime Minister, David Cameron, sets out the Government's plans on key issues including house-building, social housing tenure and right to buy. Commenting on the document, ARCH's secretary, John Bibby, director of housing and community services at Lincoln City Council, said: 'We are pleased the Government is recognising that the provision of new housing can not only meet the demand for housing, but also create and sustain jobs in the construction industry and stimulate much-needed growth in the economy. We welcome the Government's renewed focus on housing and will be looking carefully at the Government's proposals as set out in the document in more detail in the coming days.'

The launch of the strategy was accompanied by the draft subsidy determination for local authorities in advance of the move to the new self-financing system, which comes into effect in April 2012. Mr Bibby said: 'ARCH hopes that measures contained in the new strategy for housing alongside the reform of council housing finance will give stock retaining councils more tools with which to address pressing problems locally. The settlement figures in the draft subsidy determinations mean that most local authorities will be taking on a higher level of debt at the start of the new self-financing regime. We will be consulting our members as to the impact of both new policy announcements and the draft subsidy determination for communities across England that are facing both housing and economic challenges and will be formulating a collective response on behalf of councils whose tenants have chosen their local authority as their landlord.'

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1) The Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) represents councils whose tenants and residents have chosen for their local authority to be their landlord.
- 2) ARCH has been campaigning for the housing finance system and opportunities for council to fulfill their potential to build new homes. For further information on ARCH visit: www.arch-housing.org.uk

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