



Response to Consultation

Date: 24 October 2011

Consultation: Establishment of a Belfast City Centre Waiting List

Introduction

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) represents registered and non-registered housing associations in Northern Ireland. Collectively, our members provide around 36,000 good quality, affordable homes for renting or equity sharing. Further information is available at www.nifha.org

General Comments

NIFHA is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to this consultation document on behalf of our members in the Housing Association movement. NIFHA's members are responsible for around twenty five percent of all social housing stock in Northern Ireland which are widespread throughout Northern Ireland. We also recognise that social housing in Northern Ireland has made a significant contribution to achieving social cohesion and reducing social exclusion within our society.

The operation of the Housing Selection Scheme has ensured that social housing allocations have been made equitably in accordance with housing need and this has contributed to the development of a higher degree of confidence in the building of an inclusive society within Northern Ireland.

Specific Comments

NIFHA is broadly supportive of the content of this consultation document and we acknowledge that its implementation will bring about new opportunities for shared future housing schemes in Belfast city. We hope that the implementation of the proposals, in the consultation document, will address a number of the problems that our members indicated they have experienced in this area.

NIFHA understands the rationale behind excluding the established single identity social housing estates from the preferred option 3 and is supportive of the aspiration of NIHE to promote shared living and good relations in this area.

I hope you find our comments useful please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification on any of the points raised in this consultation response.

Submitted on behalf of NIFHA by:

Maire Kerr

Housing Policy and Research Manager