



NIFHA Response to Consultation

Date: 14 January 11
Consultation: Call for Evidence on the Planning Bill

Introduction

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) represents registered and non-registered housing associations in Northern Ireland. Collectively, our members provide 34,000 good quality, affordable homes for renting or equity sharing. Further information is available at www.nifha.org

General Comments

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation document. We agree that the transfer of planning functions to local councils will bring improvements to the decision making process and through this there should be greater understanding of the needs of local communities in Northern Ireland, with respect to the approach taken to planning.

Our members, when developing schemes, undertake a range of consultation exercises within the surrounding locality. The Federation and its members recognise and welcome the valuable contribution that consultation and involvement of the community can bring to the development or acquisition of dwellings in a particular location. We are therefore broadly supportive of this aspect of the draft bill.

I hope you find these comments useful please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Submitted on behalf of NIFHA by:

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NIFHA – Working Together for Better Housing

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