

Housing Associations deliver 10,000 new homes

Mervyn Storey MLA, Minister for Social Development, today announced that housing associations have exceeded the delivery targets set by the NI Executive through the Programme for Government. In the four years since 2011/12 6,101 new social homes have been delivered and 3,965 affordable homes provided through Co-ownership.

Supported by close to £570m investment from the Department for Social Development and working with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, housing associations have exceeded delivery targets by 20%. More than £300m of private finance has been secured by housing associations to make the government grant go further and provide just over 10,000 new social and affordable homes.



Welcoming the Minister's announcement, Cameron Watt Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations, said: "Local housing associations have a strong track record of delivering social and affordable housing for Northern Ireland. I am delighted that with partners our members have not only met the 2014/15 targets but also exceeded pledges from the NI Executive to provide 6,000 new social homes and 2,000 affordable homes over four years.

“The 2014/15 targets required housing associations to increase by nearly 60% from the previous year the number of new homes started. In achieving this target our sector has demonstrated our commitment to fulfilling a growing role in meeting housing need.

“Of course huge challenges remain. However working closely with partners in government and the Housing Executive, housing associations can continue to deliver many more great homes and help build thriving communities.”

Over the four year period from 2011/2015, the following four organisations contributed most to the meeting of the social housing targets: Apex, Clanmil, Fold, and OakleeTrinity.

Ray Forbes, Director of Development and Procurement, Apex Housing Association, one of the leading contributors to the Social Housing Development Programme, said: “Apex is delighted to have played its part in helping the Department and the Housing Executive meet their Programme for Government targets.

“New build social housing not only provides high quality and energy efficient accommodation for people who currently live in substandard housing but also makes a significant financial contribution to the construction industry in Northern Ireland.”

Carol McTaggart, Group Director of Development at Clanmil Housing Group, another of the leading contributors to the Development Programme, said: “Clanmil is delighted to have been able to provide new homes for families who need them, particularly in a difficult and changing environment.

“We are pleased to have played our part along with our colleagues across the sector in delivering the ambitious targets set by the Northern Ireland Executive.

“Clanmil remains committed to continuing to provide high quality affordable homes throughout Northern Ireland and we are calling for land owner and developers who can help us access suitable development opportunities to contact us.”

Niall Sheridan, Group Director of Operations at OakleeTrinity Housing Association, said: “OakleeTrinity Housing Association is proud to have made a

contribution to meeting the SHDP 2014/15 programme targets.

“These good quality affordable homes will make a difference to people’s lives. At OakleeTrinity we remain committed to proactively contributing to building sustainable communities.”

Notes to Editors

For all media queries or interviews, please contact Danny Lorimer, NIFHA Communications Officer on 90897695 or dlorimer@nifha.org. Out of office hours contact Danny on 07540 399241.

1. There are 24 registered housing associations working across Northern Ireland, with around 44,000 homes under management. Housing associations provide family accommodation, sheltered and supported housing and properties for shared ownership as well as a range of housing, care and support services and community investment activity. Housing associations develop all new social and affordable housing in Northern Ireland.
1. The Programme for Government sets a target of 8,000 new social and affordable homes to be delivered during the four year period 2011/12 to 2014/15. The Programme was delivered as follows:
 - In 2011/12, 1,410 social and 643 affordable homes were delivered.
 - In 2012/13, 1,379 social and 957 affordable homes were delivered.
 - In 2013/14, 1,299 social and 1,223 affordable homes were delivered.
 - In 2014/15, 2,013 social and 1,142 affordable homes were delivered.