

Recent Housing Developments

Andy Lane looks at some of the issues facing the Housing Sector in the last 3 months...

Affordable Housing

Peabody/CEBR report demonstrates the business case for affordable housing

Anti-social Behaviour

- o Excellent Report by the Commons Library on the Troubled Families Programme (England)
- o Protection from Harassment Act briefing from the Commons Library
- Revised Statutory Guidance has been produced on injunctions to prevent gang-related violence and gang-related drug dealing

Courts

o The Civil Procedure Rule Committee consults on proposed changes to the Court of Appeal permission test

Homelessness

- o The Commons Library has produced a briefing paper on section 21 notices and homelessness applications
- The London Councils spent nearly £600 million over an 18 months period
- o Rough sleeping (England) briefing paper from the Commons Library
- The DCLG produced the 1st quarter 2016 homelessness statistics and Statutory Homeless in England briefing from the Commons Library

Housing Associations

- o European Investment Bank funding for social housing and shared ownership development
- Brexit and Housing Associations paper from the National Housing Federation

Housing Conditions

o Empty Housing (England) Briefing and Empty Dwelling Management Orders briefing from the Commons Library



o The Commons Library prepare a briefing on the Housing Health & Safety Rating System

Housing & Planning Act 2016

- <u>Lifetime Tenancies: Equality Impact Assessment</u> (May 2016) issued by the DCLG and a <u>briefing paper</u> by the Commons Library
- Royal assent granted on 12 May 2016 (though not published until 23 May 2016!) and the <u>Explanatory Notes</u> have been produced
- DCLG consultation on starter homes regulations under the Act to end on 10 June 2016
- Second set of Commencement Provisions bringing various provisions of the Act into force on 13 July 2016, 1 October
 2016 and 31 October 2016

Pay to Stay

o Latest Update from the National Housing Federation on Pay to Stay for housing associations

Private Renting

o The Home Office have produced a short guide on the Right to Rent (June 2016)

Regeneration & Housebuilding

- The Chartered Institute of Housing, Poplar HARCA and Sheffield Hallam University's CRESR have produced a report on regeneration funding
- o Peabody submit plans to regenerate South Thamesmead
- o The Commons Library produce a briefing paper on Stimulating housing supply Government initiatives (England)
- o The DCLG have produced the 2016 first quarter new build housing starts and completions statistics
- o The CIH and CIPFA release a report encouraging joined up policies to allow greater local authority housebuilding
- o The Communities and Local Government Committee launches an inquiry into the capacity of the homebuilding industry
- o The House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs produces a report calling for the building of more homes



Regulation

The Homes & Communities Agency revise 'Regulating the Standards', primarily to take into account the changes in the HCA's approach to the Rent Standard resulting from the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.

Rents

- o 'Rent Standard Guidance' (April 2016) issued by the Homes & Communities Agency
- o Circle Housing reports on the need for extra support to those tenants moving onto Universal Credit
- o "Rent setting: social housing (England)" paper from the Commons Library
- o The National Federation of ALMOs produce a survey report on the impact of universal credit on rent arrears

Right to Buy

- Provisions for the funding of voluntary RTB discounts by the Secretary of State or GLA in Part 4 of the Housing &
 Planning Act 2016 in force from 26 May 2016
- o The Welsh Government announce its intention to abolish the Right to Buy and the Right to Acquire
- o The DCLG have produced Right to Buy Sales figures for the first quarter of 2016 in England
- Voluntary Right to Buy Advice from Kelvin Rutledge QC & Ashley Bowes of Cornerstone Barristers
- The Commons Library has prepared an updated briefing note on "Extending a voluntary Right to Buy to housing association tenants (England)"

Miscellaneous

- o Julian Ashby's tenure as the HCA's regulation committee chair extend to March 2018
- o The HCA have produced analysis of the cost variation in the social housing sector
- o The Crown Tenancies Bill (2016-17) will receive its 2nd reading on 16 December 2016