



Press Release

2/11/07
Ref: pr 0134

Hot Housing Conference

Chelmer Housing Partnership (CHP) hosted their fourth annual housing conference recently; providing an opportunity for residents and local professionals from housing-related sectors to learn more about the existing and future challenges facing the sector.

The conference linked housing issues such as the importance of the communities and a clean environment. Gina King, Head of Region at the National Housing Federation, spoke about the Investment East report which was launched on the same day. The report - focusing on community investment and developing economic skills - highlighted the need of contributing to the local economy, working in partnership to deliver sustainable communities and investing in the future for new and existing communities.

Caroline Davey, Deputy Director of Policy and Campaigns for Shelter - the homeless charity - also gave an engaging presentation about the future of housing between now and 2020 and, with over 29,000 people on the housing waiting list in Essex (at March 2006), how those in the housing sector can help deliver more and better affordable housing. She raised some interesting views about how housing associations can work in partnership with the local housing market, tenants, local authorities and support agencies to tackle the challenges of building three million new homes for social rented and shared housing by 2020. Caroline states: "The Government has set an ambitious target in its Housing Green Paper to build 3 million new homes by 2020. It is now up to organisations such as Chelmer to take that challenge on and work out how they are going to deliver new affordable housing on the ground. This conference was a lively and constructive way to start to engage players across the housing sector in that debate".

The third esteemed speaker, David Cockcroft from ENCAMS – the organisation responsible for the Keep Britain Tidy campaign – encouraged the audience to consider the importance of the appearance of estates on quality of life. ENCAMS aims are to involve and empower residents in setting and monitoring standards that contribute to ensuring estates are cleaner, safer and greener.

The conference was fully booked and proved to be essential for anyone involved in housing provision and supply of local services to communities, as well as those with an interest in housing and the impact of development upon the environment.

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Editors Notes:

- For more information contact Victoria Norton: 01245 613111, 07709 334403, victoria.norton@chelmerhp.org.uk
- There are 2.5m criminal damage incidents each year. 28% of the population think that antisocial behaviour is a problem in their area (taken from British Crime Survey).