

“Affordable Housing for all... one of the great causes of our time”

The Northern Housing Consortium today welcomed Gordon Brown’s commitment to the housing sector in his first speech as Labour Leader.

He signalled that housing would be a priority for his Government and that the Housing Minister would now be a Cabinet position.

John Moralee, Chief Executive of the Northern Housing Consortium, commented, “Housing has long been a key political concern for most MPs in their constituency business. We are very pleased that the incoming Prime Minister has recognised the importance of delivering affordable housing and this is reflected by Cabinet position. Gordon Brown called to make the delivery of affordable housing for all one of the great causes of our time. In the North, we are facing significant challenges: house prices have risen over 30% across the three Northern regions in the past couple of years, whilst incomes have only risen by 7% in the same period. The picture for first time buyers in the Northern regions is particularly severe as they are facing an increasing affordability gap, with mortgage advances outstripping income rises in the past year. The North is home to 29% of the English population but 35% of social housing and over half of England’s most deprived places are located in the North. The challenge to deliver affordable housing and strong, sustainable communities is crucial to the economic ambitions of the North. The Northern Housing Consortium, representing local authorities, housing associations & ALMOs, is the ‘Voice of Housing in the North’, and we look forward to engaging with the Housing Minister in ensuring housing remains at the centre of policy discussions and that together we can improve the quality of our places and deliver better quality of life for our communities.”

For further information, please contact enquiries@northern-consortium.org.uk
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