

Press Release: Building Strength Through Community Ownership

"Building Strength Through Community Ownership" is the latest publication from the Northern Housing Consortium highlighting the role of the social housing sector in supporting communities to own and manage assets. Using a series of case studies including community land trusts, social enterprises and development trusts, the publication seeks to inspire readers to imagine how community ownership can real add value to their communities and their organisations whilst meeting the challenges of a changing policy environment.

Sarah Taylor, Policy and Practice Development Manager commented, "Housing providers are already adding value across the North as social investors contributing to a broad range of public service agendas, and community ownership of assets represents the next stage. The added value is that it works at the heart and soul of communities enabling the benefits of regeneration to be sustained into the longer term – through empowerment of communities and development of their economies. Community ownership of assets is an important agenda for the social housing sector to engage with. It is a policy area which we will be hearing much more of in the future and our members' experience of partnership working and sustainable communities puts us in a prime position to take this agenda forward".

The publication has already attracted interest from government, practitioners and policy makers. Professor Anne Power from the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics commented, "Many different kinds of community self-help organisations have emerged in our towns and cities over 200 years. Each in its own way contributes to shared assets for the community. Anything we can do to promote and support these innovative ideas is worth its weight in gold. These small organisations are the lifeblood of our lower income neighbourhoods and should receive much wider recognition, praise and support for their amazing work."

"Building Strength Through Community Ownership" will be launched at the Northern Housing Summit in York on 21-22 November. All members of the Northern Housing Consortium will receive a free copy of the publication. Non-members can purchase a copy for £20.

www.northern-consortium.org.uk