

## **Increased Government funding for Home Adaptations**

The Government recently announced a 20 per cent increase in the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding and plans to strengthen the local Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) as part of a package of measures designed to help people live independently in their own homes for longer.

Charlotte Howse, Director of Policy and Practice at the Northern Housing Consortium, commented, *"The Northern Housing Consortium welcomes the Government's announcement of a significant increase in funding and initiatives to help ensure older and disabled people have the best possible advice on their housing options and to help them live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Nevertheless, in spite of the increase in funding, with a growing ageing population and an increase in the number of people with long term illnesses and disabilities, resources are still tight and authorities remain under pressure to make budgets stretch. Through our Quality of Life theme, we are working on a range of initiatives to benefit our Members in this area.*

*Through Consortium Procurement, we recently launched a new Adaptations solution. This framework is designed to provide financial benefits through collaborative purchasing of major adaptations; meaning budgets can stretch further, and also to assist Members in improving timescales for adaptations, along with quality and service to their customers. We will also use our annual Adaptations conference to advise local authorities and other providers on how to make best use of this additional funding."*

The Consortium's Adaptations conference will take place at York Race Course in Spring 2008. For further information on the Northern Housing Consortium's Quality of Life work; the Adaptations conference, or Consortium Procurement's new Adaptations solution, visit the website on [www.northern-consortium.org.uk](http://www.northern-consortium.org.uk) or email [enquiries@northern-consortium.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@northern-consortium.org.uk)