



## **NORTH EAST ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STUDY GROUP CONSULTATION RESPONSE:**

Prepared by the Northern Housing Consortium

### **Enabling local authorities to contract their Anti-Social Behaviour Order functions to organisations managing their housing stock**

**ODPM November 2005**

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Northern Housing Consortium (previously the Northern Consortium of Housing Authorities 1974 - 2002) was established in April 2002. It is an independent non-party political, not for profit organisation working to improve and promote housing services across the North. Its 179 members include Local Authorities, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) and other organisations involved in housing.
- 1.2 The Northern Housing Consortium is controlled by its members, who between them manage over 86% of social housing in the North, over 1.3million homes. These organisations are drawn from the three Northern Government Office regions of the North East, North West and Yorkshire & Humberside, as well as the Housing Corporation (North).
- 1.3 The North East Anti-Social Behaviour Study Group is a collection of practitioners working in the region who meet every quarter to discuss policy and share best practice in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. The Northern Housing Consortium acts as a facilitator for this group.
- 1.4 The following details the views of the North East Anti-Social Behaviour Study Group in relation to the consultation paper.

## **2.0 Overall Response**

- 2.1 The North East Anti Social Behaviour Study Group welcomes the opportunity to comment on proposals outlined in this consultation paper that will enable local authorities to contract out their Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) functions to organisations managing their housing stock.
- 2.2 The group broadly supports the proposals outlined in the consultation paper, and believe that any decision to contract out ASBO functions on behalf of the local authority should be made in line with local arrangements and circumstances.
- 2.3 There are three questions on which the ODPM invited a response. These will be dealt in turn.

### **Question 1 – Do you support the proposal to make it possible for local authorities to be able to ask any organisation managing their housing under section 27 of the Housing Act 1985 to also carry out all or some of their ASBO functions on their behalf?**

- 2.4 The overall consensus of opinion is that providing that individual ASBO applications were thoroughly discussed amongst all the appropriate agencies, and that actions were understood and information shared there would be no difficulties.
- 2.5 The group feel that there are clear benefits in having the flexibility to contract out the ASBO if appropriate, as practitioners within the North East Anti-Social Behaviour Study Group come from a variety of organisations. This flexibility is considered of vital importance to ensure the most effective way of working in line with local needs.

### **Question 2 – Do you agree that the Secretary of State should not attach any conditions to an Order made as part of this proposal, and that local authorities should set any conditions when making local arrangements? If not, what national conditions should be set?**

- 2.6 The group consider that the Secretary of State should be as flexible as possible in confirming conditions to an order. Any agency considering use of ASBO's should always ensure appropriate discussions with local agencies, and any conditions or proposals should be in line with local custom or practice.

**Question 3 – Do you have any other comments about the proposal, including any practical implications you think it might have?**

- 2.7 The North East Anti-Social Behaviour Study Group supports the Home Office in its efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities. It must be noted that the study group is evidence of a commitment in the North East to share good practice and solve problems in partner with other agencies. The group consider that because of a general commitment to multi agency working in the North East, we will welcome procedures to enable this to happen in a more effective way.
- 2.8 In light of revised legislation the group will support a regular review of procedures to tackle anti-social behaviour to ensure standards are continuously improved.

**4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The North East Anti-Social Behaviour Study Group is pleased to have been given the opportunity to respond to this important consultation and will be happy to contribute to any further consultation in this area.

Simon Page  
Project Officer  
[Simon.page@northern-consortium.org.uk](mailto:Simon.page@northern-consortium.org.uk)  
Northern Housing Consortium

29/01/06