

**Northern Housing Consortium
Home-Ownership Group
Terms of Reference
(August, 2006)**

1.0 AIMS

- 1.1 To provide further information and support to our members on the wider issue of Home-Ownership including affordability and the various government and non-government approaches to home-ownership as well as issues surrounding Right to Buy (RTB), by engaging with the key housing contacts who are involved in and/or have an interest in Home-Ownership.
- 1.2 Influence government to provide a sustainable Home-Ownership and RTB policy for the benefit of both social housing organisations and tenants who would like to purchase their properties. This will include pressing the case for the right to replace lost stock.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership is open to all Northern Housing Consortium members with a specific interest in Home-Ownership, other relevant organisations and statutory bodies as agreed with the Northern Housing Consortium (NHC).
- 2.2 Membership of the network is free to existing NHC members.
- 2.3 Each NHC member will be allowed a maximum of three free places in the network at any one time.
- 2.4 The database of group members will be shared amongst other registered Home-Ownership contacts to encourage the dissemination of good practice initiatives and assist with problem solving.
- 2.5 Members of the group will, when required, provide evidence to assist future lobbying of government.
- 2.6 Members of the group will, when required, provide relevant information to inform the exchange of best practice.
- 2.7 Members of the group will assist in developing ideas for future commissioned research into Home-Ownership issues and issues surrounding RTB.

3.0 GROUP DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The NHC will facilitate the group through electronic communication.
- 3.2 The NHC will take responsibility for collating and circulating relevant information to the group.
- 3.3 Where appropriate the group will go beyond the current e-based RTB forum to scheduled quarterly meetings hosted by members around the North.
- 3.4 The NHC will facilitate, when required, the development of relevant research, peer review of strategies and policies, reports, briefings and workshops.
- 3.5 The group will be reviewed and evaluated at the end of each year, by a short questionnaire to group members.

5.0 OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Influence Government Policy and Legislation through:
 - 5.1.1 Identifying policy concerns in relation to wider issues of Home-Ownership and issues surrounding RTB.
 - 5.1.2 Considering remedies within existing legislation, and lobby for changes.
 - 5.1.3 Replying, via the NHC, to relevant consultation documents.
 - 5.1.4 Gaining membership of relevant national and regional working groups.
- 5.2 Providing information and support to group members through:
 - 5.2.1 Exchange of best practice with fellow group members.
 - 5.2.2 Positive practice Briefing Notes.
 - 5.2.3 Peer review of policy and strategy reports.
 - 5.2.4 Scoping areas for funded research.
 - 5.2.5 Relevant workshop sessions.
 - 5.2.6 Other.