

**Press release 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## **Northern Housing Consortium welcomes Grant Shapps as Housing Minister**

Northern Housing Consortium today welcomed the appointment of Grant Shapps as Housing Minister.

Charlotte Harrison, NHC's Director of Policy and Strategy commented, "We recognise the scale of the challenges we face, from delivering more affordable homes, supporting and enabling vulnerable people, promoting mobility, meeting our environmental targets and above all, the restrictive public expenditure situation we find ourselves in. We are confident that the Consortium's Members will work with the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition to maximise our abilities to meet these challenges and to demonstrate, unequivocally, the benefits in terms of value for money and outcome for individuals that providing investment and support for the housing sector provides."

"We have already established a good working relationship with Grant Shapps, and some of our Members recently enjoyed a lively debate with him on Conservative party housing policy. What we urgently require now is an announcement of the joint policies of the new coalition in relation to housing, so that we can start to unpick what this means for our Members. We are disappointed that the Housing Minister will not be attending Cabinet meetings, however we will continue to ensure that the needs of the North are represented to the new Government through Communities and Local Government Secretary of State, Rt Honourable Eric Pickles".

Ends

### **Notes to editors**

1. The Northern Housing Consortium is a non-political, not for profit, member based organisation, whose members between them manage almost 90% of social housing in the North. Our main roles are:
  - To provide a comprehensive range of timely, relevant and affordable services for members with a distinct focus on Northern issues
  - To take a lead role in enabling the improvement of housing and organisational performance in the North
  - To work with Government and other bodies to ensure the region benefits from the resources and funding available to provide safe, vibrant, sustainable communities

Further information can be found on our website at [www.northern-consortium.org.uk](http://www.northern-consortium.org.uk)

Communities and Local Government sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue. CLG have responsibility for all race equality and community cohesion related issues in England and for building regulations, fire safety and some housing issues in England and Wales. The rest of CLG's work applies only to England.