



**ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
HOUSING & SOCIAL MOBILITY**



Title: All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Social Mobility

Purpose: To champion social housing providers that support communities to secure sustainable livelihoods. To examine evidence led insights into the role that government, housing providers and stakeholders can play to best support social housing tenants and communities to access long-term, rewarding employment.

Meeting: Meeting Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 8th June 2021, 1.00-1.50pm

Attended

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Peter Aldous MP | Member, Co Chair |
| Liz Twist MP | Member, Co Chair |
| Lord Bob Kerslake | Member, Vice Chair |
| Sally Ann Hart MP | Member, Vice Chair |
| Jane Hunt MP | Member, Vice Chair |
| Secretariat | |
| Lynsey Sweeney | Managing Director, Communities that Work |
| Guests and Speakers | |
| Rt Hon. Chris Pincher MP | Minister of State for Housing, Communities, Local Government |
| Michelle Reynolds | Chief Operating Officer, Clarion |
| Esther Longe | Employment Support Officer, Clarion Futures |
| Observers | |
| Lindsey De Bartolo | Minute Taker, Torus Foundation |
| Peter Cowdrey | External Affairs Director, MCF Foundation |
| Debra Scarratt | Abri, member of Communities that Work |
| Martin Anderson | Octavia, member of Communities that Work |
| Jo Todd | Victory Housing, member of Communities that Work |

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

The Co-Chair, Peter Aldous MP welcomed all and opened the business of the AGM at 1.03pm.

Apologies submitted:

- Mims Davies MP, Minister for Employment
- Richard Bacon MP, Vice Chair, APPG



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HOUSING & SOCIAL MOBILITY



- Bob Blackman MP, Vice Chair, APPG
- Ian Byrne MP
- Kevan Jones MP

2.0 Co-Chairs Address

Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair

- Peter Aldous MP highlighted the reasons for establishing the APPG on Housing and Social Mobility with housing being intrinsically intertwined with social mobility and helping people realise their full potential.
- Over the last year, the importance of housing has been re-enforced and the APPG serves a very important role.
- Thanked Communities that Work for the secretariat support that has been provided throughout the year.
- Noted that the highlight of the year had been the Inquiry that was carried out which provoked a great deal of discussion and was used to make representations to the Government.
- A challenging year ahead but one that the APPG can play an important role in promoting social mobility in more deprived communities.

Liz Twist MP, Co-Chair

- Liz Twist highlighted that there was a great deal of interest from the North of England on the work that is being done by the APPG and it is good to see the work expanding and growing geographically.

3.0 The Election of Officials: Chairs and Vice Chairs

The Co-Chairs stepped aside and, in their place, Secretariat, Lynsey Sweeney chaired the election.

The following officers were unanimously re-elected:

Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair
Liz Twist MP, Co-Chair
Richard Bacon MP, Vice Chair
Bob Blackman MP, Vice Chair

The following officers were unanimously newly elected:

Sally Anne Hart MP, Vice Chair
Jane Hunt MP, Vice Chair
Sir Bob Kerlake, Vice Chair

Ian Byrne MP and Kevan Jones MP were confirmed as new Members of the APPG. Secretariat, Lynsey Sweeney handed back to the Co-Chairs to welcome the Keynote speaker.

4.0 Keynote addresses: Rt Hon. Chris Pincher MP, Minister of State for Housing, Communities, Local Government.

- The Minister of State for Housing, Communities, Local Government noted the work of the Government around Social Housing
 - Committed to building a million homes during the life of the 5 year parliament in order to meet the needs of people in the country. The need for really good quality has been seen the introduction of the Future Homes Standard, ensuring that properties built after 2025 will be at least 75% more carbon efficient than existing properties.
 - National Model of Design Code to play an important part in the planning reforms. Ensuring communities will have a greater say in what is being built around them and for them, focussing on green spaces and the public realm.
 - Launched Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026 - £12.3billion of public funding, which is estimated to build 180,000 new affordable homes, half will be for rent and 32,000 of homes will be for social rent.
 - Reformed the Housing Revenue account rules for local authorities and changed the interest rates for the Public Works Loan Board to make it advantageous for such borrowing to take place.

- Social Mobility
 - Focussed on the desire of people to be upwardly social mobile. Over 80% of people in rented sector have an aspiration to own their own homes. The challenge for too many parts of the country are the average earnings are significantly lower than the average house prices.
 - Changes shared ownership rules and launched first homes policy.

- Questions were put to the Minister of State for Housing, Communities, Local Government around the following subject matters.
 - Approved Document L - Conservation of Fuel and Power (*Peter Cowdrey, External Affairs Director at the MCF Foundation*)
 - VAT charges of improving efficiencies in existing homes (*Peter Cowdrey, External Affairs Director at the MCF Foundation*)
 - How can government work across departments to ensure we can improve the employability, and availability of jobs (*Liz Twist MP*).
 - How can government work with the wider group of Housing Associations and Local Governments and what practical things we can do as an APPG (*Liz Twist MP*).
 - Update on the Social Housing White Paper (*Liz Twist MP*).
 - Is there anything that can be done incentivise Housing Associations to increase employment opportunities to support social mobility and whether this can be incorporated in the Social Housing White Paper (*Peter Aldous MP*)



**ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
HOUSING & SOCIAL MOBILITY**



5.0 Guest speaker perspectives: Michelle Reynolds, Chief Operating Officer, and Esther Longe, Employment Support Officer, Clarion Futures

- Michelle Reynolds shared the work being done at Clarion and Clarion Futures
 - Clarion are fully committed to playing their part in providing high quality, affordable homes and also uniquely providing employment support through Clarion Futures - offering tailored, 1:1 support through employment advisors which take time to understand the needs of the customer.
 - Last year was a challenging labour market and their free national employment services supported 2500 people into work in including 215 people into an apprenticeship and help people set up their own business. 82% sustained that employment for more than 6 months.
 - Proud to lead the Kickstart housing partnerships, with 59 organisations (44 in the housing sector), creating 800 new Kickstart placements for unemployed 16-24 year olds across England and Wales.
 - Working closely with Communities that Work to promote the crucial role of social housing in the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Esther Longe provided a unique insight into her journey as an out of work university graduate to an Employment Support Officer at Clarion. Esther was claiming Job Seekers when she gained a place on the Future Jobs program - a 6 month paid placement. Once the 6 month placement ended, Esther became a permanent Employment Support Officer and has now been with Clarion for 10 years.
- Both Co-Chairs thanked Michelle and Esther.

6.0 The year in review and the year ahead, Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that Work and Secretary to the APPG

Peter Aldous MP commented that Communities that Work are working with Eddie Hughes MP on the Social Housing White Paper Expert Panel, with the first meeting scheduled in June.

The Secretariat, Lynsey Sweeney thanked all the parliamentarians for committing to this APPG from last year and into this year and looked forward to working on several agenda items including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2021/22.

7.0 AOB & Close

The meeting was closed at 1.50pm