



PRESS RELEASE

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Northern Housing Summit outlines power of collaboration

Collaborative thinking between social housing providers is going to be vital in the coming years - that was the message from the ground breaking Northern Housing Summit.

In a keynote speech, Sir Bob Kerlake, chief executive of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), outlined that partnership working is at the core of new Government thinking and in the current climate registered providers must look at ways of working together in order to achieve more for less.

Hosted by Re:allies, a strategic collaboration between housing consortiums Procure Plus, North East Procurement and Efficiency North, the event was the first of its kind for those involved in the provision of social housing in the North.

More than 120 social landlord chief executives, chairs and board members from across the North of England turned out at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, in Manchester, on 30th July to focus on harnessing the power of collaboration.

Delegates were able to hear from key figures within the sector including Iain Sim, chairman of North East Procurement, who looked at the practical implementation of collaborative procurement. While Alison Mathias, HCA policy manager, gave an insight into the national carbon neutral agenda.

Mike Brogan, chief executive of Procure Plus, said: "The Northern Housing Summit has been a huge success in bringing together some of the North of England's leading social housing organisations and has been able to demonstrate exactly what can be achieved through collaborative working."

The summit was also the venue for the launch of the National Change Agent (NCA) Annual Review, which takes an in-depth look into efficiency in social housing.

This year's review outlines how there are now 15 social housing consortia across the UK, made up of 155 landlords, who manage 1.3m homes between them and have overseen the refurbishment of 700,000 properties - generating savings of £226m.

Delegates themselves were also able to fire questions directly to a panel of industry experts including Sir Bob Kerslake, Mike Brogan, Alison Mathias and Martin Hilditch, assistant news editor of Inside Housing, in a question and answer session.

The day was then rounded off with a theatre production, which followed the journey of a prolific offender whose life has been transformed through a social enterprise scheme, made possible thanks to procurement savings.

Mike Brogan added: "The overall aim for everyone involved in the social housing sector must be to create thriving communities, affordable homes and good jobs. By working together we can ensure effective management of HCA funding, bulk purchase savings, reduced procurement overheads and additional investment in community projects.

"We hope that delegates have been able to take away new ideas and contacts that will help them deliver better services to tenants and transform their communities."

Throughout the day Re:allies posed a number of questions to delegates on a range of issues such as grant funding, warmer homes and social enterprise and found that 60 per cent believed working through a consortium is an excellent idea.

To find out more about Re:allies visit www.re-allies.com

Ends

About Re:allies

Re:allies is a strategic collaboration between three housing consortia that provide purchasing consortium facilities for social housing developments and registered providers across the UK.

The three not for profit organisations - Procure Plus, Efficiency North and North East Procurement bring together, in one group, unmatched experience of building, regenerating and managing sustainable homes and environments, while offering a significant opportunity for social housing consortia to share best practice, undertake joint sourcing, promote schemes designed to improve local employment and reduce negative environmental impact.

Jointly, the members of Re:allies are responsible for the repair and upkeep of over 800,000 properties across the North of England and have a remit to reinvest volume cost savings directly into local businesses, jobs and skills.