



Northern Ireland Housing Council
Chief Executives and Clerks of District Councils
Central Housing Community Network
Health and Education sectors
Members of the Consultative Forum
Housing Associations

November 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are reviewing our Corporate and Business Plans and objectives for the year ahead.

You will be well aware of the general economic climate and the pressures on public spending arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review. While budgets have not yet been finalised for Northern Ireland departments, it is clear that public funds will not be able to cover all that needs to be done. Already we have had to reduce our work in a number of important areas such as housing multi-element improvements and environmental works.

Recently several reports on housing have discussed alternative governance and financial arrangements for housing in light of the pressures on public funds. However no decisions have yet been made on any new arrangements, so it is important that we plan to use money where it is most needed.

Accordingly we are asking you to let us know how best we should shape our work to meet the needs for the coming years in light of the financial pressures and tell us which of our services you feel most need to be protected.

You can see our Summary of the Corporate Plan for 2010 onwards in the consultation section of our website www.nihe.gov.uk . It will give you useful information on our current main activities and spending areas.

These questions may help you to focus on a reply:

- a. Have we set the right vision and objectives in our current plans? Is our vision realistic or not ambitious enough? How do you think it might be changed?
- b. What should be the principal goals for the Housing Executive in the future?
- c. What do you and/or the people you represent believe should be the outcomes which we must focus upon?

- d. How can we build on our work to help communities take more of the lead in matters that affect them?
- e. How can we help to improve the places where people live in the next 10 years
- f. What opportunities are there for working with other public services, and sectors to improve life for people in Northern Ireland?

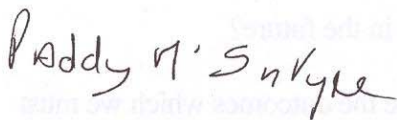
Can we also ask you to give a list of priorities from 1-10 of the housing services which you think are most important and which should have priority in our spending plans (bearing in mind the likely limitations on resources). You can choose from the list below or include other services not listed:

Rank	Activity	Rank	Activity
	New house building		Housing opportunities for homeless people
	Repairs		Community safety
	Improvements		Better community relations
	Adaptations to homes for disabled people		Building skills in the community
	Grants for privately owned homes		Financial guidance and debt counselling
	Better housing for the Traveller Community		Urban and rural regeneration
	Promoting energy efficiency and helping to combat fuel poverty		Other services – please list separately.

You should contact Trevor Greene to comment or discuss by 10th December 2010 (you can phone him on 028 9031 8554 or email to trevor.greene@nihe.gov.uk). Trevor can get you copies of the plans or other Housing Executive publications in a variety of formats and languages.

The second phase of consultation will be at the end of January 2011 when we have drafted the plans. I will write again then to ask if you wish to suggest changes to the content. The plans then go for approval to our Board and the Minister for Social Development at the end of March. We hope this approach will help you, our customers and stakeholders to contribute to our work through plans which properly reflect the needs of our community.

Yours truly



P. McIntyre