

# Housing Community Network 2010

Community Involvement  
Opportunities

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# Background and aims

- In 2008 the Housing Executive commissioned research on the HCN, one key recommendation was to review the development of social capital in the HCN every two years. The present research is the result, the aims of which were:
  - To re-examine the HCN as a facilitator of community involvement and allied activities;
  - To re-examine the impact of HCN membership on the delivery of services and on building stronger communities;
  - To make recommendations for further action.

# Membership and organisational aspects of the HCN

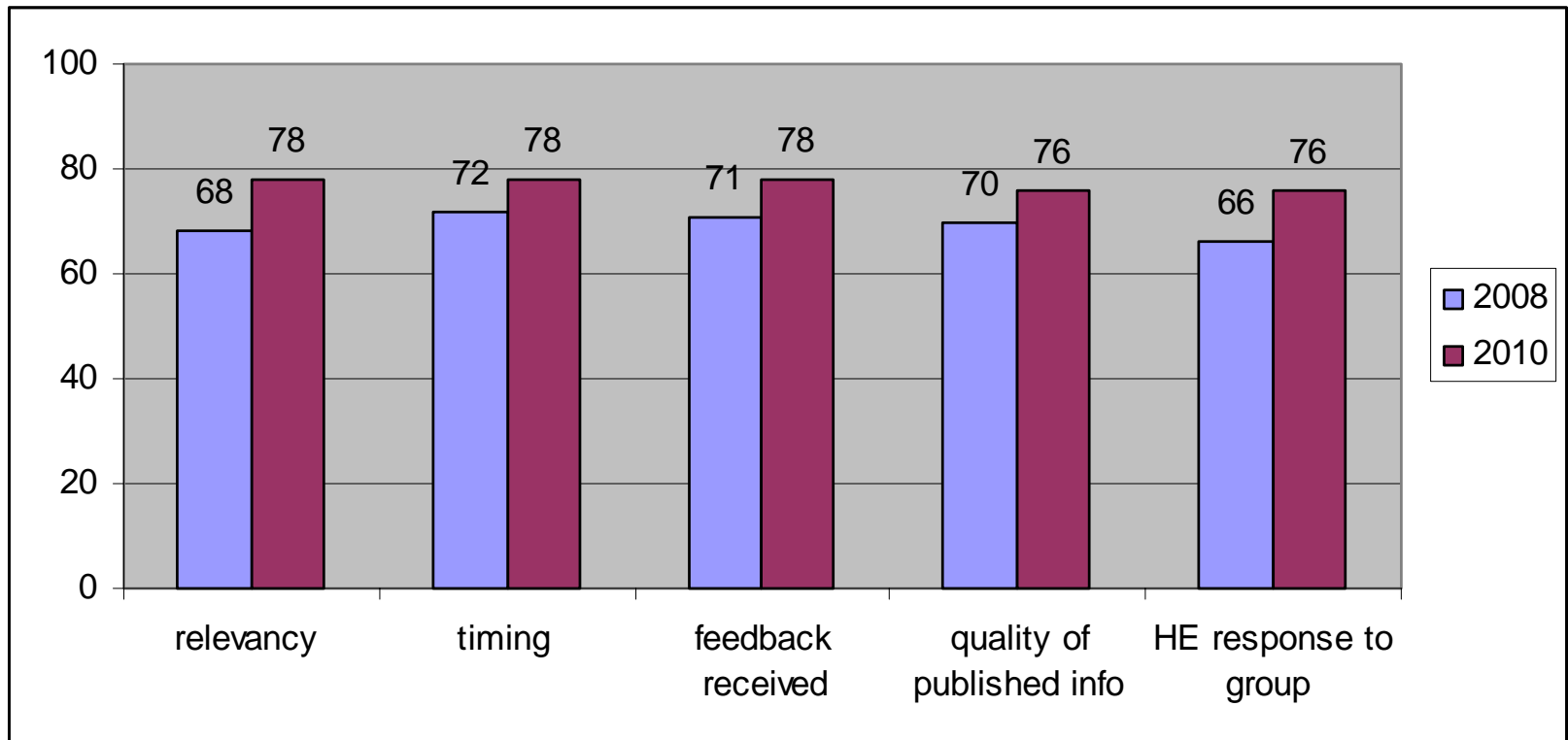
- Long term as well as turnover of members serving at all levels
- Average number of meetings attended fall below the number held
- Positive opinion among members at all level
- Representativeness of the HCN in terms of BME low relative to other groupings
- There is a demand for training within the HCN

# Communication and feedback

- Members feel they are better informed
- High levels of satisfaction within the HCN
- Satisfaction with DHCN compacts high among members
- High levels of satisfaction with community group compacts
- Three quarters either satisfied or very satisfied with HE communication with improvement made since 2008

# Communication and feedback cont.

## HE communication and feedback 2008 and 2010

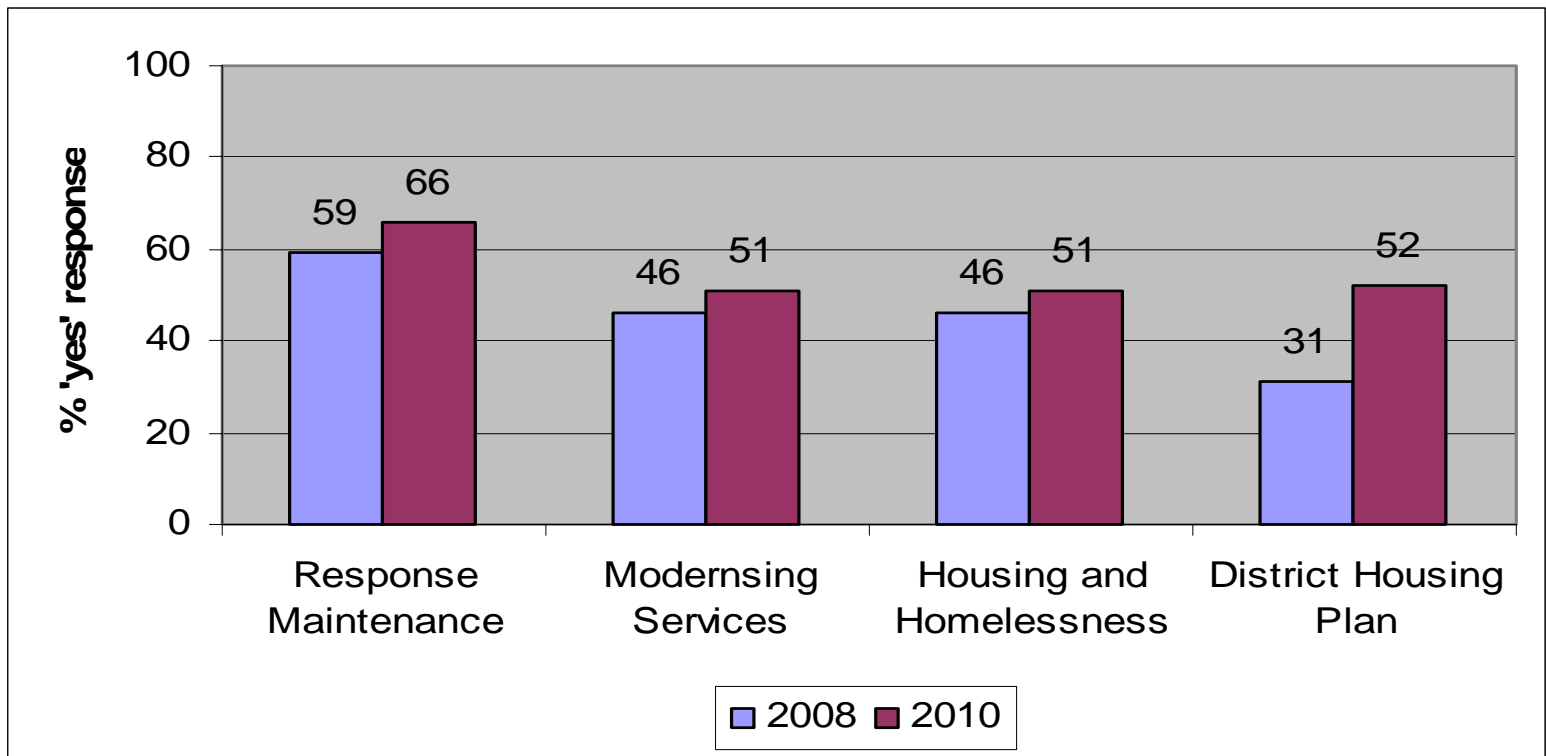


# Effectiveness of the HCN

- There was evidence of the HCN facilitating and maintaining both bonding and bridging social capital.
- The perception of increased effectiveness for linking social capital was less significant.
- Less significant were groups participation in decision making about policy.
- Groups having an increased influence on policy related HE business was also less significant

# Effectiveness of the HCN cont.

## HCN membership and resident influence on HE 2008 -2010



# Group Activities

- The majority of groups run community projects
- Over four fifths of community groups access other organisations / agencies
- Mostly work with agencies in the community sector
- However, a fifth work with agencies in the both the community and statutory sector

# Recommendations

- Consideration should be given to:
  - improving attendance at meetings at all levels within the HCN.
  - the processes where by community groups input to agendas prior to meetings.
  - assessing and facilitating training needs.
  - measuring the level of involvement tenants and communities want and how the NIHE can facilitate this.
  - capacity building in order to support different types of involvement

# Recommendations cont.

- the possible use of internet technologies such emails, forums, Facebook etc. to increase the coverage of communications and information flow within, between and beyond communities.
- developing the involvement of hard to reach groups in the District HCN through community associations, youth projects, networks and various black / minority ethnic support and advocacy groups.
- a more detailed examination of the level, depth and impact of work done by community groups with statutory agencies to help identify best practice in leveraging resources, ideas and information from more formal institutions that are beyond the community.

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