

cipfa housing panel meeting summaries

1. Local Authority members of the Panel met on 23 February 2012 and business included the following matters:

- Receiving an update from the Department for Communities and Local Government on preparations for the move of local housing authorities from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy system, to become self-financing local housing authorities. This followed up detailed input from members of the Panel to the working groups assisting central government officials with this major reform of social housing finance.
- Discussion to help CIPFA's Assistant Director and colleagues draft guidance for local housing authorities on accounting for depreciation of their social housing stock.
- Discussion to help Chartered Institute of Housing and CIPFA colleagues working on a future system of self-regulation for local housing authorities.
- Early consideration of points CIPFA could make in response to the DCLG consultation on tackling social housing fraud.

2. Housing Association members of the Panel met on 24 February 2012 and business included the following matters:

Consultation responses on which Panel members assisted CIPFA:

- the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills / Financial Reporting Council consultation on the future role of the Financial Reporting Council
- the Tenant Services Authority statutory consultation on revisions to the regulatory framework for registered providers of social housing
- the Tenant Services Authority consultation on the Accounting Determination for registered providers of social housing
- the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on social housing fraud
- the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on allocations of social housing accommodation

3. Local Authority members of the Panel met on 7 June 2012 and business included the following matters:

- Consideration of technical "wash-up" aspects of the move from the Housing Revenue Subsidy system to one of self-financing for local housing authorities
- Further work underway with CIPFA colleagues on depreciation and valuation of social housing stock under self-financing
- A Panel project to help local housing authorities provide their tenants with user-friendly financial information on how rents are used
- Work by Panel volunteers with CIPFA Housing colleagues to provide an online discussion piece to help local housing authorities develop self-regulation schemes
- An update on the government's development of the Right to Buy scheme for local housing authority tenants
- Early discussion of future matters arising from welfare reform on which CIPFA would be able to assist local housing authorities

4. Housing Association members of the Panel met on 3 July 2012 and business included the following matters:

- Discussion to assist the second stage consultation work on the Accounting Determination for registered providers of social housing due to take place over the summer by the Homes and Communities Agency
- Consideration of aspects of Universal Credit likely to affect housing associations and tenants under welfare reform, to help CIPFA prepare for issuing future advice in this field
- Discussion of service charges to help CIPFA prepare advice for housing associations on this aspect of social housing finance
- Consideration of the upcoming government consultation process on Real Estate Investment Trusts, to help CIPFA prepare a response