



COMMISSION ON MUTUAL & COOPERATIVE HOUSING

NEWS RELEASE

Housing Co-operatives to Move Centre Stage in National Housing Debate

4th June 2008

An independent Commission to explore the historic role of housing co-operatives and chart potential mutual futures for this diverse sector has been announced today. The Commission on Mutual and Co-operative Housing has been set in motion by the Confederation of Co-operative Housing, Cooperatives UK, the Co-operative Development Society, social housing providers Accord, Matrix, Hanover and Trident, the Housing Associations Charitable Trust (hact), and is supported by the National Housing Federation and the Chartered Institute of Housing.

The Human City Institute (HCI) and the University of Birmingham's Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) are carrying out independent research to present to the Commission.

Commission Chair Adrian Coles, Director General of the Building Societies Association, outlined the approach: *'The UK has a small but flourishing co-operative housing sector. The Commission's aim is to move housing co-operatives closer to the centre of national policy debates by gathering evidence across the country to see how best to expand their future role. The Commission, which is impartial and will receive evidence across the political spectrum, is to housing co-operatives what the Monks Commission was to the wider co-operative sector in 2001; we aim to develop a long-term strategic framework for growth and management.'*

The Commission will sit for 15 months, publishing a series of interim reports, findings, and articles, organising a range of events to disseminate findings widely and promote the sector extensively with policy-makers, other sectors, residents and communities. An interim report will be published in the Autumn and a final report in Summer 2009.

The Commission will be officially launched at the Co-operatives Congress on 28th June 2008 in Blackpool in the presence of the Housing Minister Caroline Flint.

The Commission on Mutual & Co-operative Housing

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Adrian Coles Director General - Building Societies Association

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Nic Bliss	Chair - Confederation of Co-operative Housing
Gavin Cansfield	Chief Executive - Hanover in Hackney
Terry Edis	Committee Member - National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations
Alex Gipson	Commercial Director - Royal Bank of Scotland
Dame Pauline Green	Chief Executive - Co-operatives UK
Dr. Chris Handy	Chief Executive - Accord Housing Group (Executive Commissioner)
Blase Lambert	Member - Confederation of Co-operative Housing
John Morris	Chief Executive - Trident HA & Chair of the Human City Institute
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