

## Taking the chair

Professor Peter Roberts OBE takes over as KHT's new Group Chair - after a little help from ConsultCIH.



Professor Peter Roberts OBE

Peter's appointment will help give the KHT Group a national voice as it continues to grow and evolve as an organisation.

*"ConsultCIH's extensive knowledge, experience and expertise have been invaluable in helping us to recruit Peter and create what we expect to be a highly successful partnership."*

*"He is a leading figure in regeneration and is known nationally so it is a natural fit with KHT as we continue to grow our organisation in terms of the sectors and areas we operate."*

**Bob Taylor, Group Chief Executive, KHT**

Peter has worked as a professor in urban planning and regeneration at several universities and is currently



Richard Clark and Janet Hale

professor of Sustainable Spatial Development at the Sustainable Research Institute, University of Leeds.

Among many other responsibilities, Peter is an advisor to the House of Commons' Children's, Schools, and Families Select

Committee as well as the Town and Country Planning Association and also a Board Member of the Homes and Communities Agency and Chair of the HCA's Sustainable Communities Academy.

Knowsley Housing Trust has evolved considerably since its creation in 2002. It is part of the Group which now includes KHT Services, which has an annual turnover of £5million and provides repairs and maintenance services for other RSLs across the North West.

"Our success is testament to the hard work and focus of everyone involved in the Group," said Bob Taylor. "We were looking for a new Chair to maintain and develop our ethos and ensure that the high standards of governance and accountability we uphold are maintained and I believe Peter Roberts will help us to do that."

Peter Roberts replaces current chair Jayne Aston who has completed her term of nine years service on the Board. KHT was assisted in the recruitment process by Richard Clark, Executive Chair and Janet Hale, Director of ConsultCIH.

**For more information about how ConsultCIH can help you with governance, and non-executive and executive recruitment projects please contact Janet Hale on 0844 561 1758 or email [recruit@consultcih.co.uk](mailto:recruit@consultcih.co.uk)**

# Measuring impact - shaping the future

Delivering 'added value' through community investment

ConsultCIH is working with colleagues at CIH Cymru to assist the GENuS consortium in south east Wales on where and how GENuS can best add value and optimise its community investment activity. This will assist delivery of local strategic partnerships in targeted, coherent ways. To do this, we are working with GENuS on an evidence base to inform its future strategy, so that it can optimise community investment to deliver local priorities. This pioneering project has started by pulling together the community investment activities

of the GENuS partners and identifying best practice from across the UK.

As we begin to climb out of recession, GENuS recognises its community investment activities form important stepping stones to economic recovery. Whilst increasing housing supply and investing in the quality of existing homes is important in the stability of housing markets, the consortium's aim is for community investment to be the golden thread which runs through its work, enabling it to connect activity in ways that transform the *look* and *feel* of places.



For more information contact Richard Medley, Director on 0844 561 1758 or email [richard.medley@consultcih.co.uk](mailto:richard.medley@consultcih.co.uk)



## Resident-led self-regulation:

*Enhancing in-house scrutiny and performance*

Published on 9th March, commissioned by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and written by The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), this publication takes a detailed look at use of a new approach to tenant involvement and performance management which gives tenants the power to challenge their housing organisation and drive up performance.

Resident-led self regulation has the potential to give real power to a group of customers who have little consumer choice; it could also cut down on the need for external intervention. Tenants of a number of pioneer housing organisations are already using RLSR to call their landlords to account and have a lead role in improving front-line services, scrutinising performance and ensuring that the organisation is well governed.

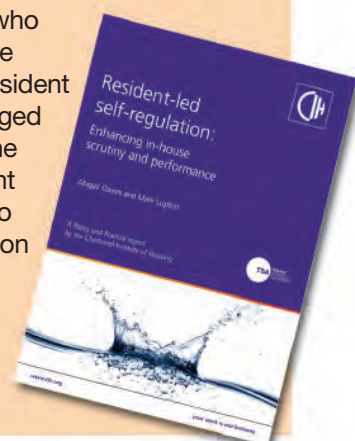
The report was funded by the TSA through its Tenant Excellence Fund and is the culmination of three years of work by CIH on a model that will help organisations to involve residents in the running of their business and to influence decisions.

Abigail Davies, CIH Head of Policy, co-authored the report. She said:

*"The early adopters of resident-led self-regulation have done some great work and have paved the way for others to follow. If it becomes widespread in the housing sector it will bring clear benefits to tenants, housing providers and the regulator. This approach can improve services, and it also has the potential to link with the new regulatory framework to assure the quality of landlord performance and to reduce external intervention."*

Janet Hale, Director, ConsultCIH was a member of the research team and is working with residents from a range of housing organisations who have already put into place or are currently setting up enhanced resident scrutiny bodies. She is encouraged by the growing interest in genuine resident involvement and resident scrutiny and would be pleased to discuss resident-led self-regulation with you.

Janet can be contacted on 0844 561 1758, email [janet.hale@consultcih.co.uk](mailto:janet.hale@consultcih.co.uk)



# Expanding Horizons

Delivering sustainable regeneration in the new climate



It is clear that new approaches are needed if we are to continue to deliver the neighbourhood regeneration that is required in our most disadvantaged communities. With ConsultCIH's help, two community based organisations are tackling these challenges head on.

In the East Midlands, Meden Valley Making Places - an established regeneration delivery vehicle - is seeking to develop a range of new projects and expand its number of local authority members to create a delivery vehicle to serve a wider geographical remit including the two housing market areas of North Derbyshire & Bassetlaw and Sherwood Forest. Work is focussed on enabling the new 'Making Places' to secure funding from the Homes & Communities Agency and other sources to deliver a programme of works with cross cutting themes across traditional boundaries. This is all part of ensuring that Making Places offers a solution

which meets the new economic circumstances and which is tailored to meet the political priorities of communities and government.

*"The ConsultCIH team is adding real value to our business planning process as we try to widen our partnership base and identify future work programmes".*

**Gary Kirk, Chief Executive, Meden Valley Making Places**

Meanwhile, the Doncaster Central Development Trust is taking forward some of the work of the New Deal for Communities project and is establishing itself as a housing provider. ConsultCIH is working with the Trust's Board to help it define the objectives for the housing project, conscious of the particular need to develop and maintain a sustainable community and to support wider regeneration initiatives. Various options are being considered ranging from sub market, through intermediate to market rent products. Together with practical advice on social, managerial and letting arrangements, ConsultCIH will be working to ensure that the Trust delivers on its economic and social aspirations within the new regeneration frameworks that are emerging.

**If you would like to discuss this project, or have a project which ConsultCIH could assist you with, please contact Richard Medley, Director on 0844 561 1758.**



## Tackling Worklessness

In 2009 the Liverpool City Employment Strategy commissioned ConsultCIH and the CIH to undertake a significant worklessness project with housing providers. This included worklessness training for a range of housing staff - both strategic and operational, to help housing professionals understand the importance and value of tackling worklessness and to be competent and confident in signposting clients to services that can assist them. The initial courses concentrated on delivery to the areas identified as the 15%

most vulnerable areas in the City Housing Strategy.

Following the success of the first round of worklessness training for housing providers, ConsultCIH is offering two further training courses in March 2010 on behalf of the City Employment Strategy partnership.

**To find out more about the project and ConsultCIH's activity on worklessness please email [kim.keggin@consultcih.co.uk](mailto:kim.keggin@consultcih.co.uk)**



## Battle of the Bands

Organised by ConsultCIH to raise money for CIH President Howard Farrand's Presidential Appeal and MC'd by Janet Hale of ConsultCIH, this was a lively event to brighten a cold Thursday evening.

The opening band, That's Rich 1, featuring CIH Head of Strategic Partnerships Rich Warrington on trombone, played swing versions of modern classics to great acclaim. After dinner, The PIs (the HouseMark band) made a guest appearance delivering energetic renditions of Tiffany's *I Think We're Alone Now* and Talking Heads'

*Psycho Killer*. Then the final act, billed as That's Rich 2 and featuring ConsultCIH's very own Richard Clark OBE on guitar, took That's Rich 1's success to another level. Richard Clark donned his shades and in true Blues Brothers style they raised the roof. The winning vote went to That's Rich 2, but the definite high point was the £4,500 raised for Homeless International.

Thanks are due to HouseMark, JGP and Wates Living Space and all those organisations and individuals who sponsored tables, bid for auction lots and made generous donations to Homeless International.

Definitely a night to remember!



## OUT AND ABOUT

The ConsultCIH team will be attending a range of conferences and events over the next few months. You can catch them at

- 11-12 March** *HouseMark ALMO Chief Executives Conference*  
University of Warwick, Scarman House - Steve Partridge
- 11-12 March** *NHF Leaders' Forum*  
Lancaster London Hotel – Richard Clark
- 23-24 March** *CIH North West Regional Conference*  
De Vere Whites Hotel, Reebok Stadium, Bolton - Richard Clark
- 20 April** *CIH Repairs and Maintenance Conference*  
De Vere Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry - Steve Partridge
- 20-21 April** *CIH TAI Cymru*  
Cardiff City Hall - Richard Medley & Steve Partridge
- 22-24 June** *CIH Annual Conference*  
Harrogate International Centre - Richard Clark, Janet Hale, Richard Medley, Steve Partridge



## Head Office move

ConsultCIH head office has now relocated to Riley Court, Coventry as part of our strategic partnership with HouseMark. The team is confident that the new offices will provide a much improved working environment.

Our Northern office in Ormskirk is not affected by this move.

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