CHAIR’S REPORT

Hello everyone.

In this, my latest Chair’s Report, I want to update you on the most recent meeting of the Governing Board. The meeting took place on 27 March and a copy of the agenda remains on the CIH website.

In terms of strategy, the Board considered and approved a proposal for the delivery of education and membership services in Canada. This work, which has been in development for several months following an approach to CIH from housing professionals in Canada, will involve the formation of a partnership between CIH and the Housing Services Corporation (HSC) which is based on Ontario. HSC is an arms-length provincial government organisation whose remit includes capacity building for housing professionals. They have led the housing sector in Ontario in seeking to raise performance standards and creating a supply of future housing professionals. Although based in Ontario, HSC is not subject to any geographical restrictions and the organisation is well placed to extend products and services across Canada.

There is demand in Canada for the further development of professionalism across the housing sector, and the two organisations will enter into a joint business venture to deliver education and membership services. Further information about the initiative will be made available to members in due course once all of the business details have been finalised.

The Board also received a further report on progress concerning the Regional Resource Review. The Review has been undertaken to examine the resources available to, and required by, the nine Regional Boards in England for the discharge of their duties as delegated boards of the Governing Board. Regional Boards are an important interface with CIH members locally and play a central role in building, sustaining and promoting CIH’s membership network. Governing Board considered a number of proposals regarding the resourcing of Regional Boards in the future and these will go forward to inform discussion with Regional Board members at a forthcoming conference at the beginning of May.

With regard to performance, the Board received a further update from the Chief Executive. Grainia’s report provides an overview to Board members on the current political environment and broader economic landscape and how these might impact on CIH’s performance or corporate objectives. Amongst a number of issues raised, the submissions made by CIH to government concerning the budget and welfare reform were noted and discussed. Alongside our contributions to the economic growth, investment and welfare reform debates, the Board was updated on the considerable work CIH has been
doing to respond to the housing, health and care agenda. CIH welcomed the cross-party report from MP’s and peers on the draft Care and Support Bill. The report warns that without greater focus on prevention and integration with health and housing, the care support system will be unsustainable. CIH has been holding summits between housing and healthcare professionals as part of our policy and influence work and health and housing will be a key theme at the Manchester Conference this year.

The third key area for consideration at the meeting was governance. In particular on this occasion, the Board considered and approved the Audited Accounts and Trustees Report 2012 for inclusion in the CIH Annual Report. The Board also finalised the agenda and resolutions for the CIH AGM which is to be held on 1 May 2013. Full details concerning the AGM have now been sent to all members in preparation for the meeting at the NEC in Birmingham.

A copy of the Annual Report is available http://www.cih.org/annualreport

In case you have not yet heard, Steve Stride won the ballot to become the next Vice President of CIH and, it is expected, President thereafter in 2014. The result was declared last week. Steve is the Chief Executive of east London housing association Poplar HARCA. I would like to offer my congratulations to him on his success, but I also wish to send commiserations to Martyn Kingsford who contested the post but was not successful.

The next meeting of the Governing Board is taking place at Octavia House, Coventry on Wednesday 15 May 2013. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the CIH website no later than Wednesday 8 May.

Best wishes,

Turlogh O’Brien,

Chair of Governing Board

22 April 2013