

Local Homes, Local Delivery

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Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Cymru

We believe that everyone should be able to access a safe, affordable place to call home. And local councillors are the closest to their local communities and therefore best placed to understand how central good homes are to creating places where people can truly thrive. Tackling poverty, improving population health, enhancing community cohesions and prosperity - housing is a key stone in some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Ahead of the local elections this May, CIH Cymru is calling on all candidates to back our Local Homes, Local Delivery pledges to help make a good, sustainable, accessible and affordable home a reality for everyone in Wales.

Think Housing!

As the Welsh public live through a stark cost of living crisis, at the end of a period of significant uncertainty, housing's role in revitalising local economies, providing employment, training and investment where it's needed most has never been so important. We're asking local authority representatives to champion the role of housing professionals in contributing to and leading partnerships within and across a range of sectors, including economic infrastructure, health, social care, community safety and transportation.

To prioritise the work of the sector locally, and champion its recognition as a sector saving a huge amount of resources and reducing pressure on key public services by acting with and for communities.



Upcoming developments from Denbighshire Housing

1. Prioritising social housing

Why?

Social housing plays a massive role in making sure there's affordable housing options to suit everyone, helps to address homelessness, and provide homes to people from all backgrounds and walks of life whilst creating value and prosperity within local economies. With the Welsh Government's 20,000 low carbon social housing target setting out the ambition, local authorities have a huge part to play in realising that vision. We want to see local authorities prioritising land for social housing, ensuring there's a consistent well-planned pipeline of supply across both rural and urban areas to serve the ambition of the sector and meet the pressing needs of communities.

2. Take action on empty homes

Why?

Wales is in the grip of an acute housing crisis. Spiralling housing costs coupled with high demand undermines people's ability to access suitable housing. We see this pressure acutely in more rural areas of Wales where second homes also combine to exacerbate the challenge. Empty homes are a wasted resource that could be used to provide a home to someone in urgent need of suitable housing. We want to see local authorities prioritise their resources to tackle the problem head-on, through recyclable funding, staff expertise and community engagement.

3. Maintain momentum in addressing homelessness

Why?

The response to the pandemic by local authorities in supporting people to have somewhere safe to stay has been unprecedented in its scale and impact. As

we transition through the pandemic, back to a reality which more closely resembles normality it's vital that the good achieved isn't lost. We're asking local authorities to continue their efforts in focussing on commissioning long-term services to support and prevent homelessness in addition to taking forward at pace new approaches - such as rapid rehousing - that could yield further success.

4. Place housing at the forefront of climate action

Why?

Taking action on climate change sits at the heart of how sectors, governments, industries etc. shape their work. Local authorities, in considering their plans for housing and communities, can continue to lead the way in how society takes action. We want to see local authorities prioritise housing that is carbon neutral, is linked to active travel and includes features to promote biodiversity.

5. Invest in the local authority housing workforce

Why?

Through our Tyfu Tai Cymru project we have regularly surveyed local authority housing professionals and, as a result, we know that many people's motivation to work in these roles is driven by a desire to have a positive impact on society. But a lack of resources locally, small teams delivering on big ambitions and competing priorities can undermine their ability to have this impact. We're asking local government representatives to be champions of the workforce to ensure that housing professionals get what they need to deliver life changing results to the people they serve.

