

## LONDON HOUSING BOARD 29 JUNE 2004

### **GUIDANCE TO REGIONAL HOUSING BOARDS**

This paper is about guidance issued to Regional Housing Boards by Keith Hill on the production of Regional Housing Strategies and recommendations for housing capital allocations.

#### **Recommendation**

The Board is invited to note this guidance includes changes to the guidance issued for the last round of strategies, including:

- That there should be a common needs analysis that underpins the Regional Housing Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy – we are doing this
- The requirement for Boards to identify sub-regional housing markets and to develop sub-regional strategies – we are doing this
- ODPM will advise boards of funding availability for 2006/7 and 2007/8. There will be a single pot for London. It will include an identified element for Key Workers and any national priorities identified in the Spending Review
- ODPM will continue to work with employer departments to identify Key Worker groups to be supported. Boards may recommend that additional support from the Regional Housing Pot should be provided to complement this programme
- Boards will no longer be required to provide any minimum level of support to local authorities. However, all local authorities should have signed off Options Appraisals and settled plans for achieving the Decent Homes target. Except where a whole stock transfer is taking place the plans will assume a continued level of funding from the Regional Housing Board, which Boards should take as a given.

#### **Background**

Keith Hill wrote to the Chair of Regional Housing Boards on 3 June with guidance on producing the next round of Regional Housing Strategies (required by May 2005) and on recommendations for the allocation of funding from the regional housing pots for 2006/7 and 2007/8 or copy at Annex A.

This guidance supersedes that issued by Tony McNulty in 2003 for the first round of regional housing strategies

The Strategy Working Group will take this guidance, and the advice notes produced by the Chartered Institute of Housing into account when developing the London Housing Strategy 2005. However, some elements of the guidance are far from clear, for example that on Supporting People and Homelessness.

The Funding Sub-group will consider the implication of the guidance on allocation from the regional housing pot. In particular it will need to pull together clear and accurate information on local authorities option appraisal plans, and recourses required to achieving the Decent Homes target.

Ministers want this guidance to be seen by a wide audience. It has therefore been published on the ODPM website. It has been made available to the Housing Forum for London. A copy is being placed on the London Housing Board section of the GOL website.

LHB Secretariat  
GOL  
23 June 2004