



Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

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Challenges and opportunities for the housing sector in Liverpool City Region & Brief update and discussion on Covid-19 and the Liverpool City Region, including the Tier Three Lockdown

Friday 23rd October, 12:00 - 13.30 – By Zoom

Re-watch the session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUjzVxFIP6I>

Introductions and Welcome

- Welcome/Introductions by Ian Byrne MP, MP for Liverpool West Derby and Vice Chair of the APPG for Liverpool City Region
- Formal agreement of minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October - [here](#) – and matters arising, Notes that Christopher Pincher was invited to attendee but was unavailable however confirmed he would join at a future meeting of the LCR APPG.

Paul Hackett, Director of the Affordable Housing Commission

- Notes the work done by the Affordable Housing Commission and also the issues in renting and housing market across the UK but partially in Liverpool.
- Highlighted that, government needs to do more to kickstart housing - particularly affordable housing including a step change in investment.
- Argued for a modest fund of £1.3 billion could help deliver more affordable housing, and much needed retrofitting, by converting private rented sector properties to ones at social rent.
- The current bounce in the housing market may lead to a dip next year when such a fund would be of great use for purchasing stalled development sites and from private landlords wishing to exit the PRS.

Bronwen Rapley, Chair and Chief Executive, Liverpool City Region Housing Association and Onward Homes

- Housing associations have worked tirelessly and well during the pandemic, providing practical support and advice to thousands of tenants. They house 300,000 people across the City Region.
- Not only are they major employers but they also have key roles in the regeneration, training, decarbonisation and supported accommodation agendas.
- Highlighted the economic impact of housing associations in the LCR furthermore calling for a greater recognition from the Government for the catalytic role decisive action on housing can play in delivering economic growth, a net zero carbon future and social cohesion arguing it genuinely does represent a win-win-win.

The Liverpool City Region APPG is kindly supported by Liverpool Housing Providers and:





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- There has been significant success in helping homeless find secure accommodation.

Bronwen Rapley & Paul Hackett

- Commented on the unmet housing need across the Liverpool City Region for genuinely affordable one bedroom properties and, in some areas, for affordable three and four bedroom homes and also that in the Liverpool City Region too many homes are substandard and in urgent need of retrofitting and that this should be seen as a major focus for Government intervention and funding.

John Mussett Operations Director for Construction Innovation Hub

- Highlighted how the Construction Innovation Hub is helping to transform the sector nationally by accelerating uptake of digital and manufacturing-led construction, with a key focus on government departments and social infrastructure.
- The Manufacturing Technology Centre, the lead partner in the Hub, in partnership with and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has begun a programme focused on transformation of the construction sector, reducing costs, improving quality and the speed of delivery.
- This will help deliver Modern Methods of Construction into the housing sector increasing both productivity and capacity at scale, delivering real and sustainable benefit to the region – driving growth, jobs and the provision of high quality housing. Already working successfully with six RSLs, the APPG heard a compelling case for Government support for this project.

Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

- Highlighted the work that the LCR are doing, particularly in collaboration with Homes England and in the work, it has done with stalled sites such as the former garden festival site, where funding has been found to secure 1500 homes in a key growth location.
- The LCR has secured £45 million for the brown field mediation pot, an effort that has three years
- Wifi and digital connectivity needs to be a fourth utility

Open Discussion

- There were calls across the APPG for a more devolved approach to housing with statements to the effect that the Local Authorities and the Combined Authority should be empowered and funded to deliver affordable and better-quality housing.
- It was pointed out that the vision and capacity is available and that MHCLG should embrace greater devolution of its affordable housing programme, as it does for London, as this would mean more affordable homes built sooner.

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- **Brief update and discussion on Covid-19 and the Liverpool City Region including the Tier Three Lockdown from the Metro Mayor of Liverpool city Region, Steve Rotheram.**

Attendees

Ian Byrne, MP, Liverpool West Derby
Dan Carden, MP, Liverpool Walton
Rosie Cooper, MP, West Lancashire
Sir George Howarth, MP, Knowsley
Kim Johnson, MP, Liverpool Riverside
Marie Rimmer, MP, St Helens South and Whiston

Paul Hackett, Director, Affordable Housing Commission Secretariat
Bronwen Rapley, Chair and Chief Executive, Liverpool City Region Housing association and Onward Homes
Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Steve Barwick, Director, DevoConnect
Elaine Bowker, Principal & Group Chief Executive, The City of Liverpool College
Dean Butterworth, Regional Director LCR, Riverside Group
Steve Coffey, Group Chief Executive, Torus
Samantha Haslam, Policy and Research Specialist, Onward
Rob Loughenbury, Director of Strategy, Onward
Ian Reed, Acting CEO, Plus Dane Housing
Alan Rogers, Chief Executive Officer, Cobalt Housing
James Stevens, Director for Cities, Home Builders Federation
Owen Stratford, Public Affairs Executive, DevoConnect
Angela Teeling, Branch Officer, CWU Greater Mersey Amal Branch
Ciarán Tully, External Affairs Manager, National Housing Federation
Olivia Tyrell, Political Research Manager, DevoConnect
Colin Usher, Architect, The Ushers / MicroArchiTecture
Charlie Whitford, Associate Director, The MTC

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