

HOUSING

Croydon Council

Housing Commission

The Housing Commission was set up in September 2016 as a CCIN policy lab, led by Croydon Council, to encourage and enable local authorities to foster and support co-operative and community-led solutions to the housing crisis. Community-led housing (CLH) can get homes built on sites that might not otherwise get used and bring empty homes back into use. More opportunities exist now to support CLH than ever before. These include the Government's £300m 2016/21 Community Housing Fund, a game-changer for English local authorities, and Big Society Capital's UK-wide £15m loan facility for CLH development costs. The Welsh and Scottish Governments also have programmes that support CLH.

Our commissioners include representatives of local authorities, Cardiff City Council, Bristol City Council, Oldham Council and Rochdale Borough Council, campaigning and support organisations, policy experts and leaders of community-led organisations.

The Commission's practical approach is aimed at boosting what is happening on the ground: sharing good practice and innovation to enable local authorities across the UK to make best use of CLH funding and work with communities to create more homes in ways that suit their local circumstances and priorities.

We have held two evidence sessions, in Rochdale and Croydon, attended by local authorities and organisations from the CLH sector, and issued a nation-wide call for evidence from local authorities. We are evaluating the 44 submissions received from across the country.

Among respondent authorities that were actively supporting CLH, the top four priorities supported by CLH were

- the provision of affordable homes,
- empowering communities so that they became more self-sufficient
- involving residents in addressing housing need
- reducing reliance on public services

The submissions received will inform our report that will set out how CLH can support councils' strategic priorities, how CLH comes into being and how local authorities are supporting CLH in practice. It will include case studies to suit a range of housing markets and local authority's

circumstances, as well as information on where to get further help. We are working with HACT (the Housing Associations' Charitable Trust) on the production of a technical toolkit that will include templates, models and formats that have already been used successfully by local authorities to support CLH and some that are designed by experts in legal, finance and planning matters. We have also developed a local authority pledge on CLH to encourage more authorities to support CLH.

Our report, website, case studies and technical toolkit will be launched in October 2017. For more information go to www.ccinhousing.co.uk

For further information contact:

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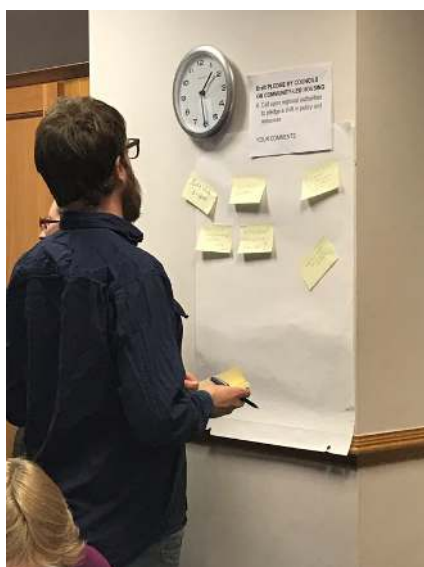
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@CCINHousing #CommunityLedHousing



Commission evidence session at Rochdale Pioneers Museum – September 2016



Commission evidence session in Croydon – November 2016



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