



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT THE ODPM'S CHOICE-BASED LETTINGS AGENDA

Welcome to the eighth edition of the CBL Newsletter. This issue provides information about the Choice-Based Lettings (CBL) regional funding scheme; the ODPM leaflet setting out the Government's CBL policy agenda; and future CBL events.

CBL Regional Funding Scheme

The ODPM is providing £4 million over three years (2005/6 – 2007/8) to support the development of regional and sub-regional CBL schemes in England.

Homes for All, the Government's 5-year housing strategy, sets out the plan for taking forward its CBL policy. The aim is to have in place a nationwide system of choice by 2010. *Homes for All* also makes it clear that the Government is keen that CBL systems should operate sub-regionally or regionally, recognising that housing markets do not follow local authority boundaries.

This year the ODPM is making money available using a bidding process. Government Offices wrote on the 8th July to housing authorities in their region inviting bids, which should be returned to the relevant Government Office by 7 October 2005.

Successful schemes will be announced by the end of November and funding will be made available by the end of December.

Further details about the regional funding scheme, including the bidding guidance and bid instruction sheet, are available on the ODPM's CBL website (www.odpm.gov.uk/choicebased-lettings).

Sustainable Communities: Homes for All – A Strategy for Choice-Based Lettings

To coincide with the Chartered Institute of Housing's Annual Conference in Harrogate in June, ODPM published a leaflet setting out the Government's policy on CBL and how we propose to take forward this agenda. The leaflet covers the following issues:

- What is Choice-Based Lettings?
- Why is CBL a good thing?
- Partnership working and the regional agenda
- Offering more options and support for those looking for a new home
- The CBL vision for 2010
- ODPM's strategy for delivering this vision

The leaflet is available to download from the ODPM CBL website. Free copies can also be ordered by quoting product code: 05 HC 03050/4 from:

ODPM Free Literature
PO Box No 236
Wetherby LS23 7NB
Tel: 0870 1226 236
Fax: 0870 1226 237
Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Forthcoming CBL events

"Moving forward: Delivering Choice-Based Lettings", Tuesday 11 October, Inmarsat Conference Centre, London EC1.

This conference, which is being organised by Neil Stewart Associates and sponsored by ODPM, will examine issues such as:

- how local authorities can develop partnerships with RSLs
- wider partnership structures, such as the role of social services and voluntary agencies, to meet the needs of vulnerable people
- whether CBL contributes to community cohesion or reinforces segregation.

The Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Yvette Cooper, will give the key note speech.

For further details information contact Jim Hendry on 020 7324 4361, or email james.henry@neilstewartassociates.co.uk

Further Information

For further information on CBL or further copies of this newsletter please visit ODPM's CBL website at www.odpm.gov.uk/choicebased-lettings

or visit the CBL website operated by De Montfort University's Centre for Comparative Housing Studies at www.choicemoves.org.uk

Alternatively contact

Frances Walker or Andrew Lock
Tel: 020 7944 3666 Tel: 020 7944 6448

Email: choicebased.housinglettings@odpm.gsi.gov.uk