



CASE roundtable explores welfare reform concerns

On Friday 10 February the Consortium of Associations in the South East (CASE), hosted a roundtable on the impact of welfare reform on housing. The meeting successfully brought together leading brains from the public and private sectors, including representatives from both the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

The group met to discuss the findings of a paper recently released by CASE, entitled 'The impact of welfare reform on housing'. It finds a number of policy areas where perceived short-term savings are likely to be overshadowed by a set of complex problems in the longer-term. Most critically, it finds a direct link between proposed reforms and a reduction in future build capacity. The danger is that as CLG embarks on a programme to increase housing supply, DWP is preparing to implement policies that are certain to do the opposite. Today's roundtable provided the perfect forum to discuss these issues and potential resolutions.

Ann Santry, Chief Executive of Sovereign and Chair of CASE, said; "As members of CASE, we all agree that in order to help people back to work and stability, aspects of the current benefits system require modification. However, our main discussion points today have centred on the need for a benefits system where entitlement is matched more intelligently and appropriately to people's circumstances. We are also extremely concerned at the lack of adequate transitional arrangements which are vital to implementing such wide-ranging reforms. We therefore put a number of workable proposals on the table which we hope will be more considered more widely by the Government."

Brian Johnson, Moat's Chief Executive, summarised; "Today's roundtable provided some thought-provoking conversation which hopefully signals a renewed understanding between the Government and providers. My hope is that it will inspire further discussion and clarification around how these reforms are introduced. If not, we will soon be facing a much greater housing crisis than the one we're dealing with today."

CASE comprises The Guinness Partnership, The Hyde Group, L&Q, Moat, Paradigm, Radian, Sovereign, Thames Valley Housing and West Kent. The CASE paper, '[The impact of welfare reform on housing](#)' is available here. (If you cannot use this link, please visit www.moat.co.uk/majorpubs).

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The Hyde Group: www.hyde-housing.co.uk

TVHA: www.tvha.co.uk/

Radian: www.radian.co.uk

Sovereign: www.sovereign.org.uk/

West Kent Housing Association: www.westkent.org/

Guinness Partnership: www.guinnesspartnership.com

L&Q: www.guinnesspartnership.com

Paradigm: www.paradigmhousing.co.uk