

Summary

Council-Led Housing Forum

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Background

Responding to increasing housing targets, tightening budgets and the desire to retain assets for long-term revenue, local authorities are shaping new approaches to housing delivery. The Mayor's [Building Council Homes for Londoners](#) prospectus offers financial support to drive delivery of council-led housing, but a sector-wide skills shortage and limited opportunity to share approaches has been identified as a limiting factor.

A new offer for London boroughs

The Future of London [Council-Led Housing Forum](#) provides technical advice to practitioners involved in the council-led delivery of homes. This includes delivery partnerships/special purpose vehicles (i.e. non-estate regeneration) wholly owned companies and direct delivery through Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA). Pioneering boroughs, housing associations and independent experts are sharing skills, experience and lessons learned. The ultimate aim is to help build more homes.

Learning outcomes

Participants will –

- gain a detailed understanding of the pros and cons of a range of delivery mechanisms
- learn best practice approaches for all key stages of the development process
- benefit from a confidential space to share lessons learned
- be able to take advantage of a structure for ongoing peer support
- build a resource of event content to use and share

Sector outcomes:

Participants and their organisations will –

- increase the skills and capabilities of borough delivery teams
- be more effective in sharing successful ideas and practices; have a better chance of avoiding pitfalls and repeat mistakes
- benefit from the promotion of housing delivery progress, successes and outcomes to the sector
- deliver homes more quickly and efficiently.

Core audience

The key audience is local authority housing and development teams, especially staff managing projects day-to-day. Housing associations are also invited to participate and share their experience.

Events programme

This three-year programme of monthly events started in November 2018 (see topics over). Recognising that boroughs are at different stages and approach delivery in different ways, the programme is designed so participants can dip in and out of the series.

Each session is distinct, highly practical and uses case studies and live examples. Delegates hear from respected experts and experienced practitioners from local authorities.

The programme started with a strategic look at council-led delivery for local authority directors and heads of service. This was followed by a series of modules on development management for day-to-day project leads. We are currently running our focused sessions on key areas of challenge such as resident engagement.

Winning support across the council is essential to delivery for housing and development teams; specific sessions will be held with local authority planning, finance, asset & property officers and with elected members. These will explore how to improve internal ways of working.

About Future of London

Future of London helps build better cities through knowledge, networks and leadership – across disciplines, organisations and sectors. We are the capital's independent network for regeneration, housing, infrastructure and economic development practitioners, with 3,500+ professionals using FoL as a hub for sector intelligence, connection and professional development, and a mandate to prepare the next wave of cross-sector city leaders.

SUPPORTED BY



Programme

Below is the programme for the first 18 months. All sessions are half-day unless specified, including time for discussion and networking. Please visit our [events page](#) or join our [mailing list](#) to check for event dates beyond February, and to find out when registration opens.

STRATEGY: for corporate & divisional directors and heads of service

Strategic approaches & scaling up	Understand corporate objectives for council-led delivery across London, hear first-hand the pros & cons of different models being applied in London, the keys to success & how to speed up delivery	27 Nov 2018 4.00–5.30pm
Building the right team	Identifying the skills and experience required, balancing internal and external appointments and different approaches being implemented across the capital to recruiting and maintaining an effective team	29 Jan 2019 4.00–5.30pm

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT: for heads of service, team leaders, development/project managers in housing, regeneration and development

Initial analysis & feasibility	Hear best practice approaches to first-stage site analysis, project feasibility and developing an outline business case	25 Mar 2019 2.00–5.00pm
Project inception & planning	How to establish and manage an effective team and programme, design development and securing planning consent	23 Apr 2019 2.00–5.00pm
Construction	Learn effective ways to manage construction from contracting through design issues and budget management to stakeholder engagement	21 May 2019 2.00–5.00pm
Handover & aftercare	How to prepare for a smooth handover including allocations and nominations, ongoing maintenance and good customer service	25 Jun 2019 2.00–5.00pm

TOPIC-SPECIFIC SESSIONS: for heads of service, team leaders, development/project managers in housing, regeneration and development

Achieving design quality	This session will offer expert advice on the importance of setting clear design aspirations, writing a good design brief and assessing quality & cost	17 Jul 2019 2.00–5.00pm
Implementing fire safety regulation changes	This session is a briefing on the current and potential future implications of implementing changes to fire safety regulation whilst developing new council homes. It will follow through the practical implications of adhering to the process based on the final report of the Hackett Review May 2018.	17 Sep 2019 8.45–10.15am
Winning resident support	Learn how to develop effective consultation strategies, plan for resident ballots and manage media	24 Sep 2019 2.00–5.00pm
Infill development	A practical guide to site selection, procurement and delivery and packaging sites	22 Oct 2019 2.00–5.00pm



SUPPORTING CROSS-AUTHORITY COLLABORATION: for directors, heads of service and officers from specific local authority departments

Planning	Specifically for planners, this is an opportunity to share experiences of how planning teams can best work with housing and development teams & develop a set of good practice principles. With RTPI London.	26 Feb 2019 2.45-5.00pm
Finance	As above, for local authority finance directors	19 Nov 2019 3.00-6.00pm
Council Development & Asset Management	As above, for local authority asset/property managers	28 Jan 2020 2.00-5.00pm
Elected members	A briefing for portfolio holders on the opportunities and challenges for council-led housing delivery in London, including a focus on local authority finance.	3 Mar 2020 4.00-6.00pm

