

Letter to stakeholders

28 March 2008

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to update you on progress in setting up the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and for those who have not received these letters in the past, introduce myself as Chief Executive Designate of the new Agency.

We have made rapid progress in the month that has elapsed since my last letter. I take up my post full time with effect from Monday 31 March and a high priority for me during my first two to three months will be carry out a series of visits to regional projects and partners, during which I also visit nearby Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and ASC offices and staff.

I recently had a very useful meeting with Caroline Flint, our new Minister, in which she signalled her support for the vision for the new Agency and our plans to accelerate the introduction of the HCA. It is clear that Caroline is a firm supporter of the HCA and will be a powerful advocate for it in Cabinet and in Parliament.

In my continuing programme of meetings with key opinion formers from housing associations, local authorities, RDAs, local delivery vehicles and the private sector I have been struck by the broad support for the HCA and the general eagerness for it to be created as soon as possible. I would like to thank those involved for their encouragement so far.

The Report Stage and Third Reading of the Bill, which mark the completion of its Commons stages, have been scheduled for 31 March, after which the Bill will go to the House of Lords to start its consideration there.

We have also recently welcomed two new people to the Set-up Team. Su Bonfanti from CLG is working to clarify the functions that will transfer from CLG to the HCA through detailed discussions with those responsible in the department. In addition, Emma Peters, currently Corporate Director Development and Renewal at Tower Hamlets, will shortly be joining the Team to focus on the development of the programme in London.

In all, we have made excellent progress in recent weeks and I look forward to providing you with further updates in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Bob Kerslake