



Supporting our membership

2019

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Introduction

This summary sets out the work the CCH has done for our membership over the last year. Broadly our recent work has fitted into two overall categories:

- providing advice and support to our members;
- building the infrastructure needed to develop new homes in the co-operative and community led housing sector.

Providing advice and support to our members

We have held two [regional member](#) forums this year, one in London in March and the one in Liverpool in October. The London forum was specifically designed to enable our CCH members to discuss opportunities for community led housing development and included a representative from the London Hub supported by the Greater London Authority. The Liverpool forum enabled discussion on the member advice we have provided over the year and what we can do to improve member relations.

We held a well-attended and successful conference in Leamington Spa in May. Entitled '[Community Led Homes for All](#)', the conference looked at how our co-ops could build new homes, heard from speakers from Shelter and MHCLG, and had an excellent set of workshops to educate our members on the running of their co-op. We also launched our Co-operative Housing Trade Body awards and look forward to judging some excellent entries in 2020.

Our next conference takes place on the 17-18 April 2020 at the Mercure Haydock Park.

Member guidance

We have produced new member guidance – mostly in response to requests from our members, we now offer:

- [active membership guidance](#) – setting out how housing co-ops can maximise the involvement of their members and how to improve engagement;
- [policies and procedures guidance](#) – we produced a suite of policy and procedure documents for Community Led Homes (the partnership developed to provide support on developing new community led housing). Whilst this guidance is aimed at new organisations, the information contained in this guidance is also relevant for your co-op;
- [value for money outline guidance](#) – we produced a summary of what is expected in relation to the value for money regulatory standard. It is anticipated that the Regulator for Social Housing may provide further guidance for small housing providers on value for money – but until that happens, our brief guidance should be helpful to your co-op;
- [reviewing your insurance](#) – we produced guidance on reviewing insurance;

- **Right to Rent Checks** – we produced summary documentation on carrying out Right to Rent Checks.

The above guidance is available in the member only area of our website – but if any member cannot locate it, please get in touch info@cch.coop.

Providing services

We have formally provided services to **over 30 co-ops** and other organisations over the last year. This assistance ranged from small pieces of governance work to training programmes, assisting co-ops adopting new rules, to large policy reviews.

Mini consultation with members

A mini consultation with our members about our services provided us with the following feedback:

- you feel we have been really good at profile raising and lobbying eg securing development funding – this was particularly highlighted as being positive and valued;
- you really like the member updates and briefings, although some members said they had not received them. [Please email info@cch.coop to subscribe](mailto:info@cch.coop);
- you felt we could improve the way we communicate with our members – we are now considering ways to engage directly with co-ops and other members;
- you have also suggested some improvements to the CCH website - work is now being done to update the website to make it more useful and easier to use;
- concerns were expressed about ageing profiles in the housing co-op sector and it was felt that there is a need for guidance and support on active membership, this has now been produced and is available in the member area of the website – see our document [‘Active Membership in Housing Co-ops’](#);
- the possibility of CCH leading a sectoral debate [about “what does a modern co-op look like”](#) - we have included a session in our conference this year to discuss this;
- a request was made for policy templates – hence the production of policy and procedure guidance;
- comments were received from tenant management organisations and community led housing hubs about services that would be helpful to them.

Developing community-led homes

Excellent work has been done over the last year to raise the profile of the community led housing sector and establish infrastructure to support the development of new co-operative homes.

During the year, the grant funding body Homes England carried out research into the community led homes potential pipeline (ie. numbers of homes that local groups had aspirations to build) and discovered that over [16,000 homes](#) are waiting to be built. Most of these homes would not be built unless they are community led.

This growth has come about partially through the [Community Housing Fund](#) which has enabled:

- groups to gain [access to funding](#) to enable them to develop schemes;
- the establishment of a [network of community led housing hubs](#) where people, community organisations, local authorities and others can go to get advice and support on developing community led homes;
- carrying out a [training and accreditation courses](#) for those providing advice on developing community led homes;
- production of [support materials](#) (including the policy and procedure guidance previously mentioned).

Developing community led housing at scale

We have further pursued our programme to develop a “[Foundation](#)” to enable the development of co-operative and community led housing at scale – particularly focussing on land and finance issues.

Homes in Community Hands seminars

We have held a series of events on the [Homes in Community Hands grant programme](#) provided through the lottery funded Power to Change to enable new start up groups to get particular small amounts of funding.

Scottish housing co-ops

We welcomed into membership a number of housing co-ops from north of the border who have particularly asked us to have a dialogue with their regulator.

Work with mutual housing associations

We have, and are, continuing to work with our [mutual housing association](#) members. It is intended to hold an event for those members in the Spring of 2020.

International work

As well as ensuring that the UK is represented globally within the International Co-operative Alliance via [Co-operative Housing International](#), we have reported on models of co-operative housing in Canada, Berlin and Zurich during the year.

Plans for next year

Building on the work from this year, we are planning the following activities for next year:

- engaging with the Government to [support](#) their manifesto commitment to community led housing;
- seeking to [engage](#) with the Scottish Government and their regulator;
- further work to [develop](#) the national community-led homes programme;
- developing a [Foundation](#) to create more community led housing;
- exploring and providing guidance on [community shares](#) and loan stock;
- production of guidance on [model rules](#) and how to adopt them;
- convening sectoral and membership discussion on [what a modern housing co-op should look like](#);
- updating our [website](#) and making better use of social media;
- helping to build a [network of Community Led Housing enablers](#) who have been accredited to provide advice to community led housing organisations;
- making [case studies](#) of new co-operative and community led housing organisations;

- exploring how we can **provide support** to housing association tenant management organisations and their landlord partners;
- providing guidance on **how to work** with a service provider;
- exploring the potential to arrange **international study** visits – primarily focused on local authorities.

We are planning the following dates:

- **CCH Member Forum London – March 2020**
- **CCH annual conference 17th to 19th April 2020 – Haydock Park**
- **CCH Member Forum Liverpool – September 2020**

We look forward to working with our members over the coming year.

CCH February 2020



CCH Annual Conference 2020

Shaping the future – co-operative housing in a new decade

17-18 April 2020

Mercure Haydock Park

Book now!

www.cch.coop/cch-annual-conference-2020/

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