

## **Housing Plus Think Tank: Energy Saving Matters – social landlords can lead the way**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
with an informal supper and debate from 6.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

*Trafford Hall, National Communities Resource Centre, Wimbolds Trafford, Chester CH2 4JP*

### **Overview**

LSE Housing and Communities, and the National Communities Resource Centre, are hosting an important think tank at Trafford Hall outside Chester on how energy saving improves buildings, brings in rent, tackles climate change, addresses fuel poverty and brings communities together. This *Energy Plus* event is part of our popular *Housing Plus* programme which examines the wider role of social landlords in poorer neighbourhoods beyond just providing homes. Our previous think tank on how social landlords can prioritise energy saving in times of austerity concluded that tackling “fabric first”, having very simple-to-manage systems and providing ongoing support are key. This event will use live case studies in each session and participants will contribute their experience.

*Energy Plus* is about helping social landlords and tenants find ways to reduce energy use in homes and buildings to tackle fuel poverty, reduce energy costs and help with rent and other arrears. Many social landlords are leading the field with innovative projects, but sharing experience and promoting what works within the sector is vital. Energy saving is now “a must”. Energy supply problems and reducing the ‘heat or eat’ dilemma many tenants face, provide a real incentive for *Energy Plus*. We want to develop our strong, knowledge exchange network among larger and smaller social landlords across the country to share best practise, learn from mistakes and develop partnerships that really deliver.

*Housing Plus* is supported by government officials who are keen to learn from the experience of social landlords. We will report on the difference and contribution social landlords can make in low income communities, and the real barriers to delivery and local and national scale.

## Outline programme

### Tuesday 5th May

18.00 – 18.45 Informal reception in the bar

18.45 – 21.00 Dinner, followed by an informal debate chaired by Professor Anne Power  
“The Energy Plus of retrofitting the existing stock”

### Wednesday 6th May

9.00 – 9.15 Registration and refreshments

9.15 – 9.30 Introductions

9.30 – 10.30 **Session 1: Why does retrofit matter?**

- What retrofitting can achieve – tackling climate change
- Future-proofing communities in the face of energy price rises
- The business case for social landlords – helping tenants to pay rents by saving
- Community energy supply
- The link between renewable energy and energy saving

10.30 – 11.00 Break and refreshments

11.00– 12.15 **Session 2: Fabric First – keeping it simple**

- What are the best examples of energy saving?
- Why high tech methods fail and Fabric First works
- How much do energy saving measures cost? How are they funded?
- What are the benefits of this investment to social landlords

12.15 – 12.45 **Session 3: Walking tour and quiz on Trafford Hall’s energy saving measures**  
Session led by Jon Findlay and Anthony Hughes, Trafford Hall

12.45 – 13.30 Lunch and display of energy projects

13.30 – 14.30 **Session 4: Barriers and obstacles to energy saving**

- Basic know-how, recognition and knowledge of the issues – fuel poverty, climate change, using appliances efficiently, new technologies, resident involvement
- Skills and training for frontline staff and residents
- Skills and certification for small builders and technicians
- Community involvement – what works

14.30 – 15.30 **Session 5: Doing what works**

- New initiatives
- What do social landlords need?
- What should the next government do?
- The role of special agencies, e.g. NHF, HCA, ARUP,

15.30 - 15.45 **Session 6: Next steps: brainstorm and round-up**

15.45 End (afternoon tea will be served)