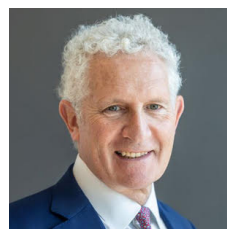


Roundtable on Homes England's 2023-28 Strategic Plan with Peter Freeman, Chair of Homes England

Tuesday 19 September 2023

Introduction

The APPG met with Peter Freeman, Chair of Homes England, to discuss the agency's new Strategic Plan which has pivoted the agency's focus to regeneration and placemaking. The meeting brought together a diverse group of housing industry stakeholders, each with unique interests and concerns. These ranged from the need to accelerate housing delivery to considerations about social rent viability, supported housing for individuals with disabilities, and the broader social impact of housing, including employment and skills development.



Key takeaways

- Peter Freeman shared valuable insights into the organisation's strategic objectives. These objectives revolve around housing-led mixed-use development, ensuring housing for all, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the promotion of high-quality homes. It was emphasised that Homes England plays a significant role in the UK housing market, collaborating with over 5,000 organisations and leaving an imprint on approximately a quarter of the homes built in the country.
- Attendees expressed interest in understanding how Homes England plans to strike a balance between direct intervention and enabling powers within the housing market.
- Concerns around access to affordable finance were raised, especially for small businesses. Ideas emerged during the meeting, including potential joint investment schemes between Homes England and banks, aimed at facilitating financing for housing projects.
- Homes England needs to balance the need for social rent with other demands in the housing industry. It was suggested that the government could explore additional funding avenues for social housing associations to address this challenge effectively.

Issues raised

- Cross-generational appropriate housing needs to have greater consideration in policy decisions. It was highlighted that the importance of recognising the housing needs of both senior citizens, first-time homeowners and in between, is an area worth considering for Homes England.
- Challenges associated with local planning authorities (LPAs), including delays and concerns related to the still unresolved nutrient neutrality issue.
- Concerns were raised about the difficulty of obtaining affordable financing, especially for small businesses involved in housing projects.

We would like to thank the members of our Advisory Board for their contributions and continuing support.

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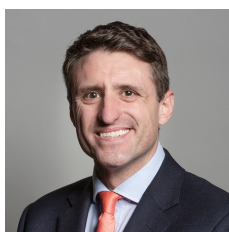
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Ben Everitt MP is the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Housing Market & Housing Delivery

To get involved, please contact
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