

18 December 2012

To: Leaders and Chief Executives

On 3rd December East Midlands Councils launched three initiatives aimed at improving investor confidence in both the public and private sectors, in response to recent research by the Smith Institute¹ which highlighted that the East Midlands is missing out on public funding for affordable housing compared with other parts of England. Our initiatives are aimed at:

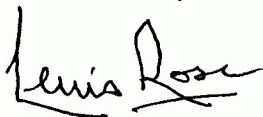
- A joint 'Prospectus' with a number of housing associations setting out the economic and social benefits of investing in affordable housing in the East Midlands;
- A 'Best Practice' module on the EMC website (jointly branded with the Chartered Institute of Housing), showcasing innovative examples of where councils and their partners have been able to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing; and
- An 'Affordable Housing Declaration', demonstrating high level political commitment by councils to a limited set of actions aimed at increasing the delivery of affordable housing. Derbyshire Dales District Council became the first authority to sign the declaration at a meeting of its full council on 22 November 2012.

Further details on all three initiatives is available at <http://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/Increasing-the-Delivery-of-Affordable-Housing>. Please make use of these publications as appropriate.

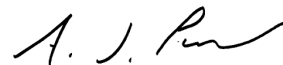
We are keen to support councils develop their 'enabling' role for affordable housing and to encourage sign-up to the Declaration. When you have had the opportunity to review it with colleagues, please could you reply to this letter to indicate whether your council has signed the Declaration/is preparing to sign/won't be signing. We hope to stage a photo-opportunity for those who have at least committed to sign up with the Planning Minister, Nick Boles MP, at the next full EMC meeting on the 15 February 2013.

We will look forward to receiving your feedback.

Yours sincerely



CLlr Lewis Rose
Chair, EMC Affordable Housing Task & Finish Group
Leader, Derbyshire Dales District Council



Andrew Pritchard
Director of Policy & Infrastructure

Cc Housing Strategy Lead Officers

¹ The Smith Institute report, "Making the most of housing and growth in the East Midlands" is available at <http://www.smith-institute.org.uk/file/housing%20and%20growth%20in%20the%20East%20Midlands.pdf>