**HCA Update for Kent Housing Group 11 May 2016**

**Housing and Planning Bill**

Once this becomes legislation, there will be clarity on how the Summer 2015 budget and CSR announcements will work in practice and we can move forward on the relevant Programmes. The bill is at “ping pong” between the Commons and Lords at present but it is hoped it will be resolved before the summer recess.

**New HCA Chief Executive**

The new interim Chief Executive is Mark Hodgkinson. He comes to the agency with a wealth of experience gained in the commercial and financial sector and has led on a number of change projects in other high profile organisations.

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| **Update on Current Programmes** |

**AHP 15 -18**

Bidding for the 2015 to 2018 Affordable Homes Programme closed on 25 November 2015.

For providers who have an existing AHP 15-18 delivery contract with the HCA, it will be possible to continue to put forward proposals for nil grant Affordable Rent schemes through IMS over this period. New AHO schemes need to go through the new programme

Some providers still have funding for AR as part of an indicative allocation or as substitute schemes – encouraged to make use of this funding rather than hand back

**SOAHP 16 -21**

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| The Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme (SOAHP) 2016-21 prospectus was launched on 13 April. The Programme aims to increase the supply of new shared ownership and affordable homes in England by March 2021.Full details of the Programme and how to bid for funding are published in the prospectus. Publication of this signals the start of the bid round which will close at midday on 2 September 2016. Prospectus is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/shared-ownership-and-affordable-homes-programme-2016-to-2021-guidance)The programme split is as follows - 88% Help to Buy Shared ownership, 7% Rent to Buy, 5% Supported housing for older, disabled and vulnerable. Funding of £4.7bn is shared with the GLA, the split is not yet known. The HCA welcomes bids from organisations which have not previously received funding. During the bid round if you have any questions about bidding please email AHPFAQ@hca.gsi.gov.uk or contact your local HCA area team. In addition to the SOAHP Prospectus we have also republished the [Capital Funding Guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/capital-funding-guide) which has been updated for the 2016-21 programme period  |

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**Starter Homes Unlocking the Land Fund**

The Starter Homes Unlocking the Land Fund was launched on 16 March. The aim of the Starter Home Land Fund is to support the acquisition, remediation and de-risking of suitable land for starter home developments that can then be built out by developers by 2020.

This prospectus specifically invites expressions of interest from local authorities outside of London to form partnerships with the Homes and Communities Agency to use the Fund.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/starter-homes-unlocking-the-land-fund>

Closing date for initial EOI is 13th May but CME continues until December. We have been working with a number of Kent LAs and bids will be coming in. There are a number of funding and assistance opportunities from the HCA available for LAs that are successful in this bid round - from support and expertise , equity investment to remediate and de risk sites and acquiring private sites – all to promote delivery of starter homes.

We are working on 2 starter Home pilot projects, these are both at an early stage of viability assessment and it’s not possible to share details at the moment but we will keep you informed of progress.

An announcement on the new format for HCA I Recoverable Investment funding is expected shortly. This will follow through on the CSR announcement below:

* Loan Finance - Short Term funding - £1bn (including existing £525m BFF) short term fund to 2020-21, with added flexibility to enable government to support emerging markets e.g. offsite manufacturing. Fund will provide loan finance for a term of up to five years in order to support the delivery of some 26,500 new homes to 2024-25.Fund will be launched in Spring 2016.
* Loan Finance - Long term funding **-** £2bn fund offering long term loan funding focussed on supporting the delivery of a strong future pipeline of housing supply. Fund will unlock development of up to 140,000 homes on brownfield land. Fund replaces and expands on the previously announced Large Sites Infrastructure Fund (£1bn launched in April 2014) and Housing Zones (up to £200m, announced in June 2014 in the Chancellor’s Mansion House speech) loan funding programme. The Fund will also support the commitment on Brownfield Regeneration Fund.