



## PRESS RELEASE

18 December 2017

### **The Housing Forum launches report on new homes quality and challenges the housebuilding sector to make major improvement.**

The cross-sector industry body for Housing and Construction is launches its latest Working Group Report on Friday 15 December. Entitled, **Building Homes Better – The quality challenge**, the report throws down the gauntlet to the housebuilding sector. Amongst other recommendations it calls for; a New Homes Ombudsman, increased quality standards to be incorporated into Building Regulations, the introduction of Quality Champions into project teams and a reversal of the deregulation of the sector.

There is a widespread and growing sense that our approach to housebuilding needs to change to give customers more choice and better quality.

Shelagh Grant CEO of the Housing Forum says “In the past week the Housing Minister has echoed our call for not simply more, but better homes and Dame Judith Hackitt has published her report into Building Regulation and Fire Safety which also draws attention to systemic challenges for residential construction. The Housing Forum’s membership is uniquely placed to make a tangible difference and this report sets out some of the changes we would like to see.

Rory Bergin, partner at HTA Design who chaired the working group leads the call for improved standards: “The mistake has been made by some in the industry of confusing low cost or affordable housing with a sub-standard poorly finished product. Some companies have let the pressures for profit and speed override their natural concerns to deliver the best quality that they possibly can at an affordable price.



“We want a housing industry that delivers more for less, that aims for the highest quality in each price range, and which aims to deliver a right first-time product that we can all be proud of”

The report sets out how this can be achieved through a series of new ideas, case studies and recommended changes to practices and policy. While the Working Group was established before the Grenfell Tower fire, much is pertinent to factors that lead to building failure. So much so that The Housing Forum has established a further group to consider the deeper causes of significant building failure.

**Notes:**

The Building Better Homes Working Group consisted of members of The Housing Forum from across the housing and construction sector.

Tim Attwood, Director, Conisbee

Jeremy Barkway, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Southern Housing

Mark Bell, Director - Architecture, Silver

Jane Briginshaw, Principal, Jane Briginshaw Associates

David Costello, Head of Commercial Services, Sanctuary Maintenance Contractors

Peter Dodds, Head of Design, Placebuilder Architects, Places for People Group

Paul Finch, Managing Director, Sanctuary Maintenance Contractors

Jeremy Green, Partner, calfordseaden

Kate Henry-Aston, Director, Hunters

David Kowal, Market Development Manager, British Gypsum (Saint-Gobain)

Jeff Maxted, Director of Technical Consultancy, BLP Insurance

Julia Park, Head of Housing Research, Levitt Bernstein

Joe Parody, Partner, calfordseaden

Nigel Shields, Head of Technical, Durkan

Lettice Swan, Associate, MDA Consulting

John Tebbit, Chief Executive, Robust Details Limited

Alex Thomas, Regional Specification Manager, Southern Region Worcester Bosch

Thomas Vandecasteele, Operations Director, Bouygues UK

Philip Waind, Director, Waind Gohil + Potter Architects

Jon Wardle, Director, AMCM-Group Ltd



The report is sponsored by AMCM-Group Ltd, Hunters and BLP Insurance

The full report is available to download here <http://bit.ly/2AmDcBm>

Hard copies are available from [info@housingforum.org.uk](mailto:info@housingforum.org.uk)

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About The Housing Forum**

The Housing Forum is the only cross-sector, industry-wide membership network that represents the entire housing supply chain on behalf of the housing industry.

Our network of member organisations and businesses collaborate to develop and improve the nation's housing stock, sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice through participation in bespoke networking events and workshops.

Membership of The Housing Forum gives housing businesses the opportunity to shape the future. Our views and content are drawn from the wide experience and innovation of our membership.

We have over 160 member organisations from both the public and private sectors, collaborating to inform, influence and network.

The Housing Forum also conducts a comprehensive research programme through a series of Working Groups, with members actively contributing to produce output to influence government, stakeholders and the creation of housing policy, and to help to better inform the house building process.

The Housing Forum shares offices with NHBC (National Housing Building Council), which also provides administrative support.

For more detail about The Housing Forum, visit [www.housingforum.org.uk](http://www.housingforum.org.uk).

#### **For further information:**

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