

George Kieffer – Vice Chair, SELEP

In 2010 George Kieffer was asked by the local authorities of East Sussex, Kent and Essex to set up the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) as Interim Chair and having completed a second interregnum as Interim Chair, is now Vice Chair covering the Essex, Southend and Thurrock area of SELEP.

As Chair of Estuary Housing Association he heads an organisation active in development of housing in a mix of tenures, including for outright sale, with activities throughout Essex and the Outer East London Boroughs.

He is the Chairman of the Haven Gateway Partnership, an association between business and local government in North Essex and South Suffolk, set up some 14 years ago. He is also Chairman of Visit Essex, the official tourism body for Essex.

George started his career in banking and moved to the City of London, becoming Controller Corporate Banking at Standard Chartered Bank. He went into commerce and was appointed Deputy Chairman and Head of European Operations of Sega Enterprises Ltd of Japan before starting a business with partners to transfer Russian aerospace and defence technology to the United States working with NASA, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and the Department of Defence. When the business was sold to B F Goodrich he developed a portfolio NED career.

George is a Trustee of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Trust, the most complete and authentic surviving First World War aerodrome in the UK and probably Europe. He is a Freeman of the City of London, a Liveryman and a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners.

Helen McCabe – Thurrock BC & South Essex Housing Group

Helen is Development Manager & Company Secretary at Gloriana Thurrock Ltd and is also Chair of the South Essex Housing Group. She is an experienced strategic and development manager with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Sustainability, strategic direction, business planning, Government, Urban Planning, Strategic Planning, and Social Housing she is also a keen advocate of sub regional working.

Session 1

Christopher Moore – Homes & Communities Agency

Christopher Moore is a chartered surveyor with over thirty years experience in the property development industry in both the private and public sectors. He is currently Head of Area for the Essex and Kent team at the HCA concentrating on major site development projects and providing infrastructure funding solutions.

Chris qualified as a chartered surveyor whilst working in London for Weatherall, Green and Smith and involved in advising a range of institutional clients in major office development projects in central London and the south east. Following the property market recession in 1992-94, Chris moved to a consultancy role advising public sector clients on redevelopment opportunities and joined English Partnerships in 1998. When the English Partnerships assets transferred to the new RDA's in 1999, Chris joined the South East England Development Agency as a Development Director. Chris joined the HCA in 2011 when the RDA's closed.

Mark Farmer – Cast Real Estate & Construction Consultancy

Mark Farmer is founding Director and CEO of Cast Real Estate and Construction Consultancy. He has nearly 30 years of experience in the construction and real estate sectors and has become a recognised commentator and thought leader on a variety of issues.

Mark has been at the forefront of emerging UK residential market segments such as Build to Rent and Later Living. He is also playing a leading role in modernising the construction industry through the adoption of greater levels of pre-manufacturing using more integrated and digitally enabled delivery models.

Mark is a member of the RICS, Vice Chairman of the ULI UK Residential Council, a member of the BPF Build to Rent sub-committee and co-chairman of Constructing Excellence.

Mark authored the October 2016 UK Government Review of the Construction Labour Market Model entitled 'Modernise or Die'.

Session 2

Paul Williamson – Swan NU Living

Paul joined Swan Housing in early 2016 to lead NU build, Swan's modular housing brand. Since joining, Paul has led on the set up of Swan's new factory in Basildon, which is using CLT to build high quality modular homes from Cross Laminated Timber. The first modular homes built in the factory were recently delivered to Beechwood, the £100m regeneration Swan is delivering in partnership with Basildon Borough Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Paul is a Chartered Engineer with over 20 year's experience in manufacturing, having spent 14 years working in Director and Managing Director level roles. Paul is passionate about education and opportunity and is already working with the Swan team to recruit a diverse workforce for the NU build factory as it moves into full production.

Mario Wolf – Right to Build Task Force

Mario Wolf is Director of the Right to Build Task Force on secondment from the Department for Communities and Local Government where he has most recently led the implementation of the Government's high-profile Starter Homes policy. Prior to this he led the introduction and implementation of the Government's Custom and Self Build homes programme which led to the introduction of the Right to Build. In 2015 he was seconded to NaCSBA to lead a research and development project which introduced the first comprehensive implementation toolkit for Custom and Self Build housing in the UK.

Mario is a chartered town planner with over 25 years public and private sector experience in planning, housing and development, in the UK and abroad. He has also built his own home with a local builder.

Session 3

Dominic Scott – Barton Willmore Consultants

Dominic leads their master planning team and has over 25 years of creating major mixed use developments ranging from The Oxford Science Park and The Phoenix Initiative in Coventry to the redevelopment of the former MG Rover Factory and brownfield site at Longbridge, Birmingham. He works for a number of master developers, housebuilders and private landowners. Dominic was also the lead masterplanner on the Middle Quinton Eco-town proposal and is currently involved with a number of the new Garden Towns and Villages. He worked on Ebbsfleet Garden City for Land Securities, liaising with a wide range of architects, coordinating design responses and advising the client and issues of design quality.

Barton Willmore Consultants is supporting a number of projects in Essex including major new commercial areas in Thurrock and strategic residential schemes in Chelmsford, Basildon and Brentwood.

Graham Thomas – Essex County Council

Graham is Head of Commissioning: Strategic Planning & Housing Growth at Essex County Council and Chairman of the Essex Planning Officers Association. He has a wealth of “place based” experience, and for the past 14 years has held senior leadership roles in planning, housing and economic growth at County and District Councils. Prior to joining Essex Graham was Head of Growth and Economy at Cambridgeshire County Council, where he managed joint teams with District Councils to deliver some of the highest number of new homes and jobs in the country. Whilst at Cambridgeshire, he led the New Town programme and signed-off the S106 on behalf of the County Council on the first phase of Northstowe New Town (the largest new town since Milton Keynes) and at Alconbury Weald.

He has held a number of senior planning roles in Essex, including in 2004 appointed as the Head of Planning at Tendring District Council he was given the task of transforming what was a failing Planning Service at that time. He successfully delivered, which included the Tendring Local Plan in 2007.

Session 4

Alistair McIntosh – HQN

Alistair McIntosh is one of the social housing sector's most respected and best known personalities.

As founder and chief executive of HQN, he is regarded as one of the foremost advisers on governance and regulation, specialising in VfM and stress testing. His hands on approach sees Alistair leading on all HQN's in-depth assessment mock exercises and support work, designing and running the popular Iron Grip sessions and chairing/speaking at conferences and events.

Career highlights include: Setting up and running the National Federation of ALMOs, leading the popular consultation on the regulatory standards for housing and developing an approach to VfM that won praise from the housing minister.

A regular contributor to the housing press, Alistair's columns are known for their humorous, pointed and painfully accurate assessment of the state of social housing

Since its inception, HQN has built up a membership of more than 1,000 housing associations, local authorities and ALMOs across its networks.

Panel Discussion: Question Time

Paul Kitson – HCA

Paul is General Manager for the HCA's South Eastern Teams with responsibility for land acquisitions and disposals, and allocation of affordable housing grant across the South East. Prior to taking up this role Paul was responsible for ensuring a start on site was achieved at the new town of Northstowe in Cambridgeshire for the HCA, a new community of 25,000 people.

Prior to joining the HCA Paul held delivery roles at the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation and at Moat Homes in Essex and started his housing and regeneration career working on SRB funded regeneration projects across West London and Hertfordshire.

Sinéad Butters – Aspire Group

Sinéad has been Chief Executive of Staffordshire-based Aspire Housing since 2006.

Under her leadership the Aspire Housing Group has grown and broadened its services via the acquisition of Staffordshire's largest apprenticeship provider, PM Training. With a strong combination of new build housing, regeneration, training and employment services, the Aspire Housing Group aims to maximise its impact in local communities and improve people's life chances.

Sinéad grew up in Staffordshire, studied at Keele University and is one of its founding fellows in recognition of her achievements and Aspires support for North Staffordshire communities.

In October 2015 Sinéad became Chair of PlaceShapers, the national network of over 117 community-based housing associations, with a collective goal to achieve real and lasting improvements in the communities they serve.

In the 2016 New Year Honours list, Sinéad was awarded an MBE for her services to housing.

Anna Chew – Countryside

Anna is a Senior Planning Manager with Countryside, a leading home builder specialising in place making and urban regeneration.

Countryside creates places of character and quality, where people aspire to live and where they feel a true sense of belonging. Countryside was recently crowned 'Large Housebuilder of the year' at the Housebuilder Awards 2017 for its brilliant design abilities and innovative engagement with communities.

Anna works within the New Homes and Communities division, to promote and manage schemes of strategic scale through the planning process. Before Countryside, Anna worked in consultancy where she had the opportunity to advocate on "the other side of the fence" to support neighbourhood-led plans to allocate and guide development to maximise benefit from the planning process.

Anna is involved in Women In Planning and Women In Property networks.

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