

Seminar Series: September 2007 – June 2008

Different Roads to Housing Reform: Evidence from an English Region

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Tuesday 3 June 2008 at 1600hrs
Venue: Ivy Lodge, 63 Gibson Street
University of Glasgow

Abstract

This paper reports analysis of different models of social housing in four local authorities in North East England – two of which are now housing association (following large scale voluntary transfer) and two are Arms Length Management Organisations. The research, conducted over two months this year and involving almost twenty semi-structured interviews with key personnel in respective organisations, seeks to answer questions such as:

- How and why each organisation came about?
- Why they took the form they ultimately did (i.e. choosing not to stay with the status quo)?
- What has been their effectiveness thus far (and how does this compare with initial formal plans) in terms of service delivery, investment, tenant and stakeholder involvement and, where relevant, neighbourhood regeneration?
- What are the wider lessons for different parts of the UK?

The paper will involve an outline of the policy context, the North-East England setting and key aspects of each case study. Key findings are then drawn out, giving particular emphasis to the relevance of instrumental processes and events as they pertain to organisational development.