



**Open meeting with the CHC Board
on Monday 17th July 2017
at the Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff**

The CHC Board held the second of the two scheduled open board meetings on 17th July 2017. The purpose of the open board meeting was to:

- *Give members the opportunity to feedback on CHC's performance in a closed setting without the executive present if requested.*
- *discuss sector issues of strategic importance with the wider membership.*

The meeting was attended by representatives of 5 housing associations alongside members of the CHC board and the Executive.

Key issues raised within the meeting included:

CHC governance: Attendees were reminded of the key changes to CHC's Governance structure, which has seen a move away from a large representative board whose members were elected from amongst the sector to a smaller business board whose members are selected on a skills and competencies basis through an open and transparent selection process. Attendees discussed the potential for an independent Chair in the future and stressed the importance of ensuring that this is someone who understands the business of the sector and is committed to the wider ambassadorial role that comes with it. It was agreed that robust succession planning would need to be in place.

Sector Reputation and PR: Attendees discussed the importance of raising a positive profile of the sector and working collectively to plan key messaging and increase its impact. There was a discussion about whether we need to enhance relationships with the Welsh media. Attendees agreed that gaining a wider reach is critical as it is often those who do not understand an issue that will pick it apart and with the power of social media this can have damaging consequences. The PR Network was seen to play a pivotal role in coordinating this.

CHC's member offer and approach to working with members: Following a short presentation providing an overview of the recent work undertaken by CHC to establish key areas of focus, attendees discussed priority areas and challenged whether CHC have sufficient resources to deliver this. The executive assured members that with planning and preparation the aspirations are achievable. Revamping the existing networks is a key part of this as it will free up significant resource and also ensures that there is the time and space to co-develop policy with members whilst aligning these groups with the business plan objectives. It was agreed that we need to balance focusing on immediate priorities with making sure we also recognise and maximise future opportunities for the sector.

PAC Report: Attendees were advised that the report has not yet been published but that it is likely to be published in the near future. The report will outline a number of recommendations for both the sector and the regulator.