

# Foreword



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CIH President 06/07



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2006 was the mid year in our current three year business plan and as shown in this Annual Report we have continued to make good progress.

We launched **Making the Case for Housing** to help influence Government in the run up to the Comprehensive Spending Review. "Making the Case" was about demonstrating how continued investment in housing can help contribute to other Government priorities: by helping support the economy; improving people's health and contributing to educational attainment.

As part of our Business Plan we set a **target of 20,000 members by the end of 2007** and through the efforts of everyone in the CIH we have met that target 11 months ahead of schedule.

And we are not only bigger, but more representative: 14% of our members are from black or minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds; 27% of CIH students are from BME communities and 56% of CIH members are women.

As our membership has become more diverse the scope of our work has widened. Our policy programme not only reflects the whole sector but includes work on community cohesion, neighbourhood management and financial inclusion and throughout this report are examples of where the CIH is working across and beyond the sector, on our own and increasingly with partner organisations... **to maximise the contribution that housing professionals make to the wellbeing of communities.** The creation of National Business Units in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland means that we can also respond more effectively to devolution.

As an organisation we provide a wider range of services than ever before and interest in the CIH is growing.

We now have the highest number of students ever studying for CIH accredited courses, not just in the UK but overseas including Australasia and China reflecting the growing international interest in CIH membership, which is featured elsewhere in this report.



David Butler CIH Chief Executive

But whatever progress we have made we cannot stand still.

The world in which our members work is continuing to change and the Government's increasing focus on skills and the drive to create a better educated, better skilled workforce also raises challenges for the housing sector and CIH.

The CIH Council has begun to assess how these issues will influence our next Business Plan for the three years 2008-10, focusing in particular on:

- *what we can do to enhance CIH's influence on Government and on future policy*
- *what we need to do to equip the housing profession to meet the challenges we expect to emerge, and*
- *how we capture the knowledge and experience of our members to help shape this agenda.*

With a strong financial base, a growing membership and committed staff, CIH has a solid platform from which to grow and develop.