

## **Sir Vince Cable to Chair new, independent, Housing Policy and Delivery Oversight Committee**

The Labour government has made housing a key economic priority and announced a series of policy developments including the target of 1.5 million new homes by the end of the parliament.

This new independent committee is being supported by the Family Building Society, a mutual building society and has been formed to monitor and help government progress on mending the UK's housing crisis. The new committee will monitor progress and offer constructive analysis and policy suggestions on housing delivery. As well as broadening the debate from the Government's disproportionate focus on new build, the committee may also consider other options such as better utilisation of existing buildings.

It is the first time that experts across every critical aspect of housing policy, from design, planning, financing to building have been brought together to monitor the Government's performance.

Sir Vince Cable has agreed to chair the committee.

Other members are:

- Mark Bogard, Chief Executive of the Family Building Society
- Neil Jefferson, CEO of the Home Builders Federation
- Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser at the Centre for Economics and Business Research
- Ingrid Schroder, Director of the Architectural Association School of Architecture
- Professor Tony Travers, a director of the LSE London
- Luke Murphy, Labour MP for Basingstoke
- The Rt Hon Damian Green, Chair, Social Care Foundation

Academic expertise and support is provided by Professor Christine Whitehead of the LSE and Kelvin McDonald, Director of Studies in Land Economy at Christ's College, Cambridge.

Sir Vince Cable said: The government has - rightly - put housing at the heart of its growth and social policy agenda. Our committee will endeavour to give a fair and informed assessment of its progress.

Mark Bogard, Chief Executive of the Family Building Society said:

"Housing really matters to everyone, every night when they go to bed. But housing policy has been a shambles for at least 50 years. Judging how politicians, councillors and civil servants are doing, marking

their homework, matters to people. It impacts how they perform. We have a statutory Climate Change Committee. We have an Office of Budget Responsibility. Housing matters just as much. So, we've set one up – hopefully, in time, fairly quickly, Parliament will set up a statutory one.

“Meanwhile, it is absolutely clear that the time has come for a coherent, long term housing policy. Successive governments have systematically failed to deliver a strategy that works. Everyone knows it. This committee aims to help remedy this by monitoring the almost weekly announcements on housing are aligned and work for the benefit of all. Our committee will highlight the good, the bad and the ugly of government housing policy and its delivery. After so many years of undelivered promises and failures, our country deserves a housing policy that actually works!”

The committee will meet around every six months, beginning in July, to assess progress and issue a report. It may also commission occasional papers on housing related matters.

#### Aim of committee and terms of reference

- To review the Government's evolving housing and planning policy announcements, actions and consequences in as far as they relate to an 'integrated housing policy'.
- To monitor actions and policies of wider housing stakeholders (housebuilders, lenders, BoE, Landlords etc) that have a direct effect on the delivery of an integrated housing policy that covers both new and existing housing stock.
- To provide informed and authoritative commentary on housing policy issues as they evolve.
- To commission where necessary independent reports to explore in more detail subject areas relevant to the above that provide helpful and informative commentary on ensuring the Government delivers on its ambitions.

**END**

#### For further information, contact:

##### **Sir Vince Cable**

Tel: 07958 476371

Email: [vincentcable@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vincentcable@hotmail.co.uk)

##### **Mark Bogard – Family Building Society**

Tel: 07881 911297

Email: [jh@haslamedia.com](mailto:jh@haslamedia.com)

##### **Jonathan Haslam – Haslam Media**

Tel: 07779 708542

Email: [jh@haslamedia.com](mailto:jh@haslamedia.com)

#### About Family Building Society

The Family Building Society, launched in July 2014, is a trading name of National Counties Building Society.

1. National Counties Building Society is the UK's eleventh largest building society, with over 69,000 members and £2.5bn of assets. Operating from its head office in Epsom, Surrey, the Society employs approximately 180 people and offers a range of competitive savings and mortgage products throughout the UK.

2. National Counties Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.
3. Eligible deposits with Family Building Society are protected up to a total of £85,000 by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the UK's deposit guarantee scheme.