



# Devonshires Leeds Conference: Changing times in Social Housing

Thursday 16 May 2019

The Tetley, Hunslet Road, Leeds, LS10 1JQ

# Event Programme

- 09.30 – 10.00 Registration Tea & Coffee
- 10.00 – 10.05 Welcome and Introductions
- 10.05 - 10.30 Key Note Speech: Nigel Wilson, Group Chief Executive Officer, Gentoo Group  
"Being comfortable in our skin!" – Knowing who and what we are and why we are here!
- 10.30 – 11.30 Breakout Session 1

## B1 LSVT stock – securing valuation uplift

De-regulation was seen as a simple means to extract significant value from existing charged stock. Has this proved to be the "golden goose" or a "dead duck"? We'll look at the myths and realities, highlight the challenges and provide workable solutions so that you get the best out of your properties.

Speakers: Chris Drabble, Partner, Devonshires, Andrew Smith Director, Housing & Public Sector & Andy Garratt, Director, Housing Valuation, Savills

## B2 Managing disputes and successfully avoiding litigation

Change can give rise to disputes with employees, tenants, suppliers, JV partners and funders. This can damage relationships and reputations. Learn the 10 easy steps to avoid Court proceedings, and the stress and expense that comes with them.

Speakers: Philip Barden, Partner & Matthew Garbutt, Solicitor, Devonshires

## B3 Goodbye LIBOR, Hello SONIA

This session will look at the impact of LIBOR ceasing to be available as the banking industry for UK Sterling adopts SONIA as its 'risk free reference rate'. We will identify the key differences and challenges that lie ahead, as well as recommendations for what RPs can ultimately do now in preparation for the transition.

Speakers: Gary Grigor, Partner, Devonshires, David Mairs, Group Director & Alistair Berwick, Director, Altair

## 11.35 – 12.35 Breakout Session 2

### B4 Health & Safety: Don't get caught out!

Reacting to a health & safety incident in an appropriate way can ensure a favourable outcome for your organisation if the worst happens. Do you know what the HSE looks for and how they conduct an investigation? Do you know how to conduct your own investigation and what information to collate? Have you got a good working knowledge of your duties under health & safety legislation? If you answered no to any of these questions, this is a session not to be missed.

Speaker: Kathryn Kligerman, Partner Devonshires

### B5 Housing Management : The Future Trends

This workshop looks at the current and future trends of housing management and all that goes with managing properties in the current legal landscape. The session will combine current issues and those on the horizon, including an idea of where we think policy proposals and changes in case-law are likely to take us. From the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act to rent setting, this session will guarantee you are up to date.

Speakers: Donna McCarthy, Partner & Lee Russell, Solicitor, Devonshires

### B6 Stock rationalisation update

Following an epic year for stock rationalisation, this seminar will look at the future of stock transfers including competitive bids vs stock swaps, discuss the new stock valuation method and consider the various strategies behind rationalisation.

Speaker: Aruna Sarwar, Partner, Devonshires

## 12.40 – 13.30 Networking Buffet Lunch

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## 13.35 – 14.35 Breakout Session 3

### B7 Workforce Worries

Employers rarely have a period of significant stability in their workforce planning but is the range of current issues something of a perfect storm? Increasing digitalisation, new worker rights, Brexit, the growth in apprenticeships, and competition for candidates from private sector house-builders are all happening at once. This session will look at each of these issues, how they can be managed, and what could happen when they come into conflict.

Speaker: Kirsty Thompson, Partner, Devonshires

### B8 LA / RP Regeneration Projects

Local authorities and RPs are embarking, in the spirit of partnership, on more ambitious regeneration projects. Using case studies, this session will explore some of the key considerations / objectives for both participants with consideration given to projects being progressed through a corporate joint venture model or through a development agreement route.

Speakers: Caroline Mostowfi, Partner & Jonathan Jarvis, Partner, Devonshires

### B9 BIM in the Current Landscape

In light of the Hackitt Report and the changing legislation which governs how we build homes, it is important for organisations to put some thought into how technology can assist at all stages of a project and into occupation. This session will discuss how BIM can help organisations to build, manage and maintain their buildings much more efficiently.

Speakers: Kathryn Kligerman, Partner, Devonshires, Lloyd Patman, Information & BIM Manager, Airey Miller, Andrew de Silva, Director, David Miller Architects & George Stevenson, Managing Director, ActivePlan

## 14.40 – 15.40 Breakout Session 4

### B10 The Changing Face of IT

In this session we will discuss how housing providers are looking to use new technology to transform their businesses and the keys to a successful IT contract.

Speakers: Gareth Hall, Consultant Devonshires, Michelle Mullen, Partner, Devonshires & Phil Riley, ICT Infrastructure & Network Consultant, Alysium Consulting

### B11 Regulatory revision and refresh

What can the regulatory problem cases to date tell us about the approach of the Regulator of Social Housing going forwards, particularly in light of anticipated Green Paper changes? This session will draw on real life regulatory cases and the lessons that can be learned from them now and as we look ahead to a potentially new regulatory regime.

Speakers: Andrew Cowan, Partner, Head of Social Housing, Devonshires & Kirsty Thompson, Partner, Devonshires

### B12 Payment Pitfalls

This session will look at payment mechanisms and notices in standard form construction contracts and concentrates on the cases and legislation governing the obligation to pay for works. It will consider the various ways in which the unwary can be exposed to "smash and grab" claims from contractors and consultants and how to minimise risk.

Speakers: Richard Anderson, Partner, Devonshires

15.50 – 16.15 Key Note Speech: James Green, Futures Programme Director, National Housing Federation  
Collaborative innovation at a sector-wide scale

16.15 – 16.45 Panel discussion

16.45 – 18.30 Networking Drinks & Nibbles

An optional exclusive guided tour of the Tetley's exhibition has been arranged for those that would like to join.

To register, please [click here](#) to complete the online form or contact us at: [seminars@devonshires.co.uk](mailto:seminars@devonshires.co.uk)



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