

## JOHN BRYSON

John qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1972 and successfully obtained a Diploma in Management Studies in 1977. After a spell of work that covered all aspects of environmental health, he has specialised in housing since 1979. Working for Sheffield City Council he developed a national reputation for work and knowledge relating to private sector housing particularly area renewal, housing conditions and grants. John was involved with the early piloting of Renewal Areas before the legislation was changed in 1989. After this he led the way in setting up a renewal Area in one of the City's most problematic areas. As part of my responsibilities at Sheffield City Council he was responsible for managing the staff and budget for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) both for public and private housing. As well as managing a combined budget in excess of £2.5m, at a time when demand was far outstripping availability, he was part of a small team who reviewed the delivery of the DFG service to ensure that the service could best meet the desires of the most vulnerable in the community who needed it whilst ensuring that it met the legal requirements placed on it by Government.

John also helped establish Sheffield's Stay Put scheme in 1991 and was on its advisory group for 10 years. Upon leaving Sheffield City Council he joined the Board at Yorkshire Housing Foundation, a charitable subsidiary of Yorkshire Housing that oversees their Home Improvement Agencies and other private sector interests. He is now the current Chairman of that Board. The six HIAs provided by Yorkshire Housing each has their own, locally determined, service agreement with each providing support and assistance to vulnerable clients.

After a long career in local government John now work as a private consultant working principally on housing and regeneration subjects. His work includes specialist contract work for Gloucester CC, Newcastle CC (twice), North Lincolnshire Council and Stoke on Trent City Partnership. Most of this work was working with local communities looking at options for neighbourhood regeneration.

For 2 and half years he worked on a contract for Warwick Legal Training (WLT), based in the Law School at Warwick University. The Safe and Healthy Housing Unit (SHHU) of the Law School developed the Housing Health and Safety Rating System which replaced the Fitness Standard as the new system of assessing housing conditions. Initially, John was providing and co-ordinating national training, under a contract with IDeA, which delivered training to Local Authorities' officers with responsibilities for private sector housing enforcement. Subsequently, he developed further housing training initiatives the most recent of which was developing and delivering a course that prepares enforcement staff for appearing before the Residential Property Tribunal. He also acted as a consultant to the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University on a Health Impact Assessment of housing intervention – *'Good Housing: Good Health'*.

John has previously worked as an adviser to the ODPM Select Committee on two occasions; scrutinising the Draft Housing Bill in 2003 and the Government's Decent Homes targets in 2003/04. He was also part of a small team which developed and produced the first draft of "Private Sector Renewal Guidance" for the ODPM in 2003.

He has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) since 1969, was awarded a Fellowship in 1987 and has been a member of the Institute's Council since 1986. During that time he was a leading member of the Institute's Housing Committee, being elected Chairman from 1997 until the Committee was replaced with the creation of the Policy Development Board. John has been Chairman of the Policy Development Board following a term of office as Chairman of the CIEH Council. As part of his CIEH activities he chaired a working party that produced "Grant Administration Guidelines" which became widely used amongst most local authorities throughout the 1990s. Following a long campaign, he was also one of the main drivers towards the Institute's draft Houses in Multiple Occupation Model Licensing Scheme that was presented to the Director of Housing at the (then) Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions. More recently John chaired the CIEH Housing Renewal and Public Health Commission and their final report was published in 2007. Currently, he is chair of the CIEH's Standing Conference on Housing and Health which has been established to promote the work being carried that illustrates that improving housing conditions improves householders health prospects.