

socialhousingpolicy@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 29th September 2026

Tel: 028 7034 7244

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: DfC Public Consultation – ‘Every House Matters: A new approach to tackling social housing tenancy fraud and misuse’.

I write on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in response to the above public consultation.

The Council notes that while the consultation focuses on housing management and enforcement rather than planning policy, it provides further evidence of the significant and growing demand for social and affordable housing across Northern Ireland. The growth in housing waiting lists, homelessness and temporary accommodation pressures demonstrates the continued need for investment in housing delivery alongside measures to improve the management and utilisation of existing stock.

The Council supports the overall aims of the consultation and welcomes efforts to improve the prevention, detection and investigation of social housing tenancy fraud and misuse. It also supports the development of an overarching strategy, stronger investigatory powers, improved information sharing arrangements and proportionate sanctions for deliberate fraud.

The Council considers that tackling tenancy fraud should be viewed as complementary to, rather than a substitute for, ongoing efforts to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. Measures to recover fraudulently occupied properties can make a positive contribution to housing availability; however, they will not remove the need to continue to address the underlying shortage of social and affordable housing through investment and delivery of new homes to meet identified need.

The consultation also reinforces the importance of effective partnership working between the Department for Communities, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Registered Housing Associations, local councils and other key stakeholders in addressing housing pressures and supporting sustainable communities.

Your sincerely,



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