

## INTRODUCTION TO SHAP

MARCH 2018

### WHO ARE WE?

SHAP is a membership network which acts a centre of excellence for sustainable housing. We carry out a range of activities and our areas of work are guided by our membership. All our work is freely available ([www.shap.uk.com/resources](http://www.shap.uk.com/resources)).

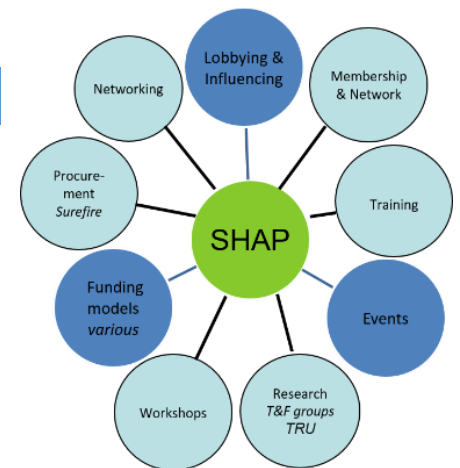
The SHAP vision is that *'all domestic dwellings will be energy efficient, resilient to extreme weather, affordable and comfortable to live in, and that this will provide a structure for sustainable communities, attractive places to live and support jobs and skills within a low carbon economy'*.  
[www.shap-uk.com](http://www.shap-uk.com).

SHAP membership is drawn from across the housing sector and includes local authorities and other public bodies, social housing providers and contractors, consultants, suppliers and manufacturers offering services to the housing sector. SHAP was originally set up by Sustainability West Midlands as a Regional Development Agency project but now provides services across England and is recruiting new Scottish Members.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

We produce the evidence base to inform and influence decisionmakers in order to support improvements in policy and practice in the housing sector. SHAP has received grant funding from the West Midlands Housing Officers Group to deliver research in 2018 to support better long term outcomes from investment in housing.

It has recently been confirmed that SHAP, on behalf of SWM and the WMCA, is leading on developing and reporting on the Green buildings workstream for the WMCA Environment Priorities and Delivery Board, chaired by the WMCA Environment Portfolio Holder, Cllr Patrick Harley.



SHAP is contracted by Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP to deliver Technical Assistance to support project development leading to bids for ERDF for low carbon housing innovation projects (new build and retrofit) and to bids for whole place solutions through Sustainable Urban Development ERDF calls.

### PRIORITY ISSUES FOR SHAP ARE:

- Supporting Local Authorities in discussions with housing developers to achieve the very best outcomes available in terms of housing fit for the future from the finance invested
- Creation of a sustainable housing stock that is comfortable and healthy to live in and affordable to run, mindful of climate change impacts, the national energy market and constraints and opportunities in the construction sector
- Demonstrating that sustainable housing construction, retrofit and maintenance offers local economic development opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities
- Understanding the risks and opportunities around new approaches to infrastructure investment, new technologies, resource management, data management, partnership working, new methods of construction, new financial/funding models and new approaches to procurement

- Support for sustainable communities through delivery of a sustainable housing stock by helping the health and wellbeing of individuals
- Tackling fuel poverty by ensuring housing is fit for purpose and promoting the use of data and digital connectivity to provide targeted support
- Tackling health and vulnerability issues by working towards data sets that can be interrogated to allow targeted support and investing in 'smart homes'
- Ensuring that rural issues are addressed equally with those of denser urban areas

## SHAP OUTREACH AND OUR OFFER

SHAP Members own over 250,000 homes and the wider network is responsible for over 500,000 homes. Local Authority Members also have regulatory powers and duty of care for many more home owners and tenants. In addition, selected Members provide domiciliary care to many tens of thousands of individuals.

Historically, SHAP has worked with almost all West Midlands Local Authorities and continues to maintain strong relationships with key changemakers. More recently we have extended our network and now have Members beyond the West Midlands and are seeking to build on key relationships across the UK. We can offer connections to innovators and leaders across our network and facilitation of collaborative projects to help deliver the WMCA action plans for housing.

## SHAP RESEARCH 2017/2018

We are working in 3 Task and Finish Groups that aim to provide an evidence base to help shape policy and practice. Outputs are disseminated at our Annual Conference. In 2018 this will be held on 15 May.

This year, SHAP has secured funding from the West Midlands Housing Officers Group to carry out three linked pieces of research that are intended to assist West Midlands Local Authorities, social housing providers and their key strategic partners to improve outcomes from investment in housing stock and to improve long term outcomes from investment.

The research areas include consideration of all housing tenures. They are:

1. Development of a **domestic new build healthy housing standard** for the financing and delivery of high quality and energy efficient affordable homes.
2. Development of a **West Midlands Smart and Sustainable procurement model** to improve value for money and long term outcomes from investment for Local Authorities and their partners.
3. Development of a **West Midlands Finance Model for financing the refurbishment of existing homes** to address fuel poverty and energy efficiency targets.

SHAP Members, Partners, Associates and Sponsors are invited to take part in research workshops and benefit from receipt of emerging research findings in real time. Please go to [www.shap.uk.com/join-us](http://www.shap.uk.com/join-us) for more details of joining SHAP and being involved in our work.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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