



Adrian Waite (Independent Consultancy Services) Limited

Management Consultancy Services: Local Authority Housing

These are examples of the local authority housing management consultancy services that we offer in all parts of the United Kingdom

Accounting for the Housing Revenue Account and Housing General Fund

The Housing Revenue Account is often considered to be one of the most complex of a council's accounts; and the introduction of self-financing in England in April 2012 created new challenges and opportunities. Housing General Fund services are also facing increased demands with constrained resources.

Our consultants are able to offer specialist advice. We have recently advised:

- Ashford Borough Council on the accounting treatment of photo-voltaic cells
- Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing on financial management
- Lambeth Borough Council on the accounting treatment of hostels
- Warrington Borough Council on a financial health check on the HRA



Northampton Guildhall: We provided advice on service charges

Service Charges for Leaseholders and Tenants

The calculation and management of service charges for leaseholders and tenants can be complex.

We have recently carried out reviews of leasehold and tenanted service charges for Northampton Borough Council and Oldham Borough Council that resulted in existing service charges being established on a firmer footing, new service charges being introduced and increased service charges being collected.

We also advised Teresa Peace MP on issues connected with service charges in Thamesmead in her constituency.

Self-Financing and Business Planning

We have assisted many of our clients, for example Basildon Borough Council, in the introduction of Self-Financing. Moving forward there is a need to ensure that effective business planning is in place.

Effective business planning involves both a rigorous analysis of the business position of the local authority and the production of a long-term financial projection including risk analysis and sensitivity testing. Our experience of strategic management and of housing finance makes us uniquely well placed to deliver this.

Clients that we have assisted recently with business planning include:

- Basildon Borough Council
- Denbighshire Council
- Enfield Borough Council
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- Warrington Borough Council

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Value for Money

In the current climate of economic constraint there is a continuing need for a focus on value for money. We believe that value for money is most likely to be achieved where there is a focus on the needs and aspirations of customers and a rigorous review of systems and costs.

Our experience in strategic management, housing finance and residents' advice makes us well placed to consider value for money.

Recent clients include:

- Birmingham City Council – assistance with the development of a value for money procurement strategy
- London Area Procurement Network – evaluation of savings from contracts
- Scottish Housing Regulator – Associate Inspector with specialism in value for money

Preparation of Financial models

Financial modelling is essential especially where new developments or initiatives are being considered. Our consultants possess both the financial and information technology skills to prepare effective financial models.

For example, we recently prepared a financial model for new build for Waltham Forest Borough Council that enabled them evaluate their own new build options and those of partner housing associations.

Housing Stock Options Appraisals

Local authorities usually seek external advice when they carry out a housing stock options appraisal. We are well placed to deliver housing stock options appraisals because of our experience in both housing finance and independent residents' advice. We carry out housing stock options appraisals from an independent and objective viewpoint – helping local authorities and their residents to identify the best option for achieving their aspirations locally.

Our recent work on housing stock options has included:

- Basildon Borough Council – Lead Advisor
- Fenland District Council – Independent Tenants' Advisor
- Halton Borough Council – Financial advisor
- Hammersmith & Fulham Borough Council – Financial advisor
- Lambeth Borough Council (Wellington Mills Housing Co-operative) – Lead Advisor
- Southwark Borough Council – Financial Advisor

We have also acted as advisor to the Government Offices for the East, East Midlands, London and Southwest on the financial evaluation of housing stock options.

Development and Delivery of Training Programmes

It is essential that housing managers, councillors and tenant representatives have a working knowledge of how local authority housing finance works. As well as our regional seminars and in-house courses we are able to evaluate your training needs and design a training programme to suit your needs. We have recently delivered recently in-house training to Greenwich Borough Council in Value for Money; St. Albans District Council in Service Charges; Pembrokeshire Council in Local Authority Housing Finance; and Perth & Kinross Council in Welfare Reform.

To find out more about the Local Authority Housing Management Consultancy Services that AWICS offer please visit:

<http://www.awics.co.uk/LocalAuthorityHousing.asp>

Or contact: Adrian.waite@awics.co.uk

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