



The E-Homebuying Forum

25th March 2009

E-HOMEBUYING FORUM: PARLIAMENTARY LAUNCH OF THE BLUEPRINT

The E-Homebuying Forum, which is leading calls for modernisation of the homebuying process, launched its Blueprint and initiated the process of implementing its recommendations at an event in the House of Commons attended by over 60 people.

The event, hosted by Sir Paul Beresford MP, a member of the influential Communities and Local Government Select Committee, saw industry and stakeholder endorsement for the Forum's work. Initiating proceedings, Sir Paul praised the Forum's initiative and welcomed the publication of the Blueprint.

The Blueprint, sets out thirteen recommendations the Forum believes will deliver greater transparency, efficiency and commitment to the homebuying process. The document was presented to attendees from across industry and government by Eddie Goldsmith of Goldsmith Williams, an Executive Member of the Forum.

Speakers also included James Scott-Lee, a member of the RICS Residential Faculty, who spoke on the need for change in the market and outlined how RICS hopes to work closely with the Forum in the coming months. Steve Kelway of the Land Registry was another keynote speaker who praised the Forum for its work and endorsed the Land Registry's continued involvement with the Forum going forward.

Following the event, 3 more companies have joined the Forum's growing membership.

Wessex Searches, which provides official data for drainage and water services covering the Wessex region, have become the newest Executive Member of the



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Forum and are looking forward to adding their voice as the Forum develops its strategy for facilitating the delivery of its Blueprint. Wessex Searches will be attending the Forum's next Executive on 21st April 2009.

In addition, Firstships and Quidos have both joined as Affiliate Members, taking the Forum's growing membership to 32 companies from across the homebuying sector. Firstships provides a unique trading platform for estate agents and property lawyers providing Home Information Packs (HIPs) and e-conveyancing and Quidos provides professional property and energy services including Energy Performance Certificates, HIPs, property brochures, professional photography, floor plans, and virtual tours.

Chair of the Forum, Mark Riddick, commented:

"It was fantastic to have so many industry and government representatives attend the reception. It was a lively debate which demonstrated the will of industry to affect real modernisation in the homebuying sector, and the E-Homebuying Forum looks forward to the challenge of galvanising industry, and working with government and stakeholder groups to capitalise on this.

"The icing on the cake for the Forum is our new members. In developing our strategy for facilitating the delivery of the Blueprint it is vital that we engage with companies from all parts of the homebuying marketplace, and the added expertise of our new members will help us to achieve this. We hope to be able to announce some further new members soon."

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors:

- The E-Homebuying Forum was established in April 2008 in order to bring together a group of like-minded companies and individuals who have a commercial interest in the home-buying and selling process, and who are



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interested in effecting real change within both industry and Government to speed up property transactions.

- The Forum intends to build on the Government's vision of easier home buying and selling, first announced in 1999, to ensure modernisation of the home buying process – by harnessing technology to facilitate marketing, investigating and transferring residential property with greater ease, security, transparency and minimal environmental impact.
- The E-Homebuying Forum has signed memoranda of understanding with the Council of Property Search Organisations (CoPSO), the Council of Licensed Conveyancers (CLC), the Legal Software Suppliers Association (LSSA) and PISCES, and has received support for its aims from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Law Society and Which?.
- For further information on the E-Homebuying Forum please contact Harriet Crosthwaite or Richard Maughan on 020 7340 6260 or harriet@quintuspa.com / richard@quintuspa.com. Further information can also be found at the E-Homebuying Forum's website: www.e-homebuyingforum.com.