



University of the
West of England

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Affordable Housing and Health - a Transdisciplinary approach to the support of an ageing social housing population in England

- **Format:**

In person with written paper

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Affordable housing for a social tenant relies on a combination of support and services that together create an environment where the occupants are given the opportunity to live their lives in a manner that conforms not only to norms of basic human rights, but also provides a sustainable platform for social and financial mobility. At least, it should....

An ageing population, reduced central government funding, under-performing house building and a substantial body of older housing unfit for disabled occupants or those with limited mobility has contributed to massive pressure on health, social care, housing and community services.

The way a house is designed and constructed, and the way in which it is situated within the community are influenced by design choices. Design options have associated direct costs, but without factoring in the

implications of those options on other agencies' costs it is impossible to assess the overall social value of the many human scale choices made every time a property is built or modified.

One practical solution is to take a transdisciplinary approach to embrace new technological advances, design solutions based on lifetime occupancy, and to coherently manage financial pressures across the traditional silos of hospital, care home, care in the community, house building and management, social services, education, transport, family and community responsibility.

Housing designed to address health concerns can dramatically improve health outcomes and reduce burdens on health, social care and housing budgets. A mechanism is described that will support health professionals to describe their hopes in their language, for social housing providers to express their design options in their own language and for there to be a coming together of the two that results in the design of houses and neighbourhoods that contribute to greatly improved well being and health with little or no additional direct cost.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Paull Robathan is a Doctoral Researcher at University of the West of England, where he led a student team to 3rd place (Europe and other OECD) in the UNHCR competition 'Urban Revitalisation of Mass Housing'.

He has come late to academic research after a career in Health, Housing and Technology.

Paull is currently non-Executive Director of Aequus Developments, the arms length housing development company of Bath and North East Somerset Council, a Senior Research Fellow with The Schumacher Institute and Board member of the CIBSE Intelligent Building Group.

Paull was the first Chairman (1987) of the European Intelligent Building Group, was invited to be a member of an international group in Barcelona examining Transitions to a New Society, a spin off from Club of Rome initiatives (1992) and was Visiting Fellow at Imperial College School of Management.

His past business roles include Chair of Raglan Developments, the house building subsidiary of Raglan Housing Association, Non-Executive Director of Taunton and Somerset Hospital Foundation Trust, Chair of South Somerset Strategic Partnership and Technology Strategist for

Gensler, America's largest architectural Practice.

He is the author of Dealing Room Design (1985) **ISBN:** 0-978-0907822-50-9 and designed furniture and trading environments for international financial institutions.