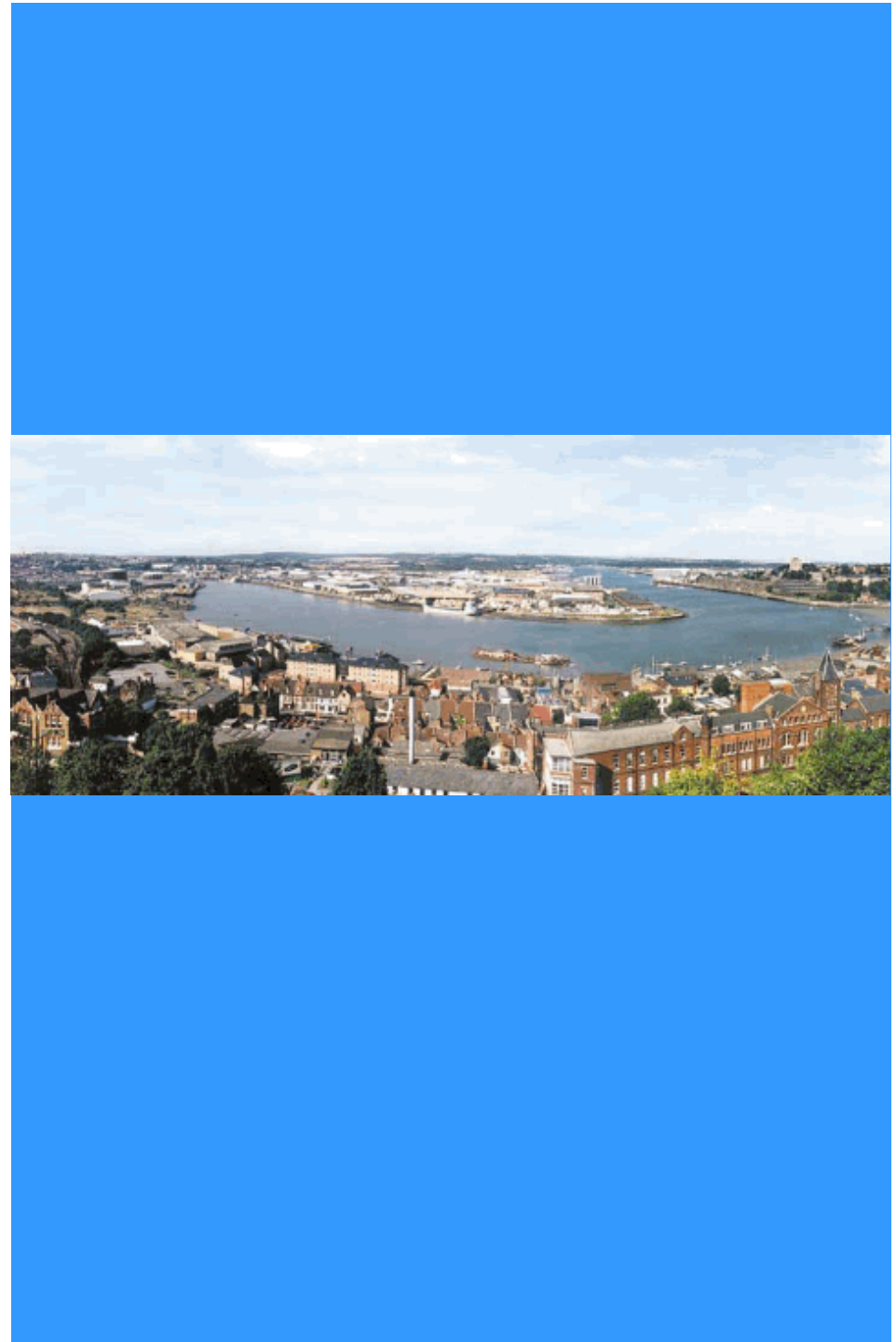


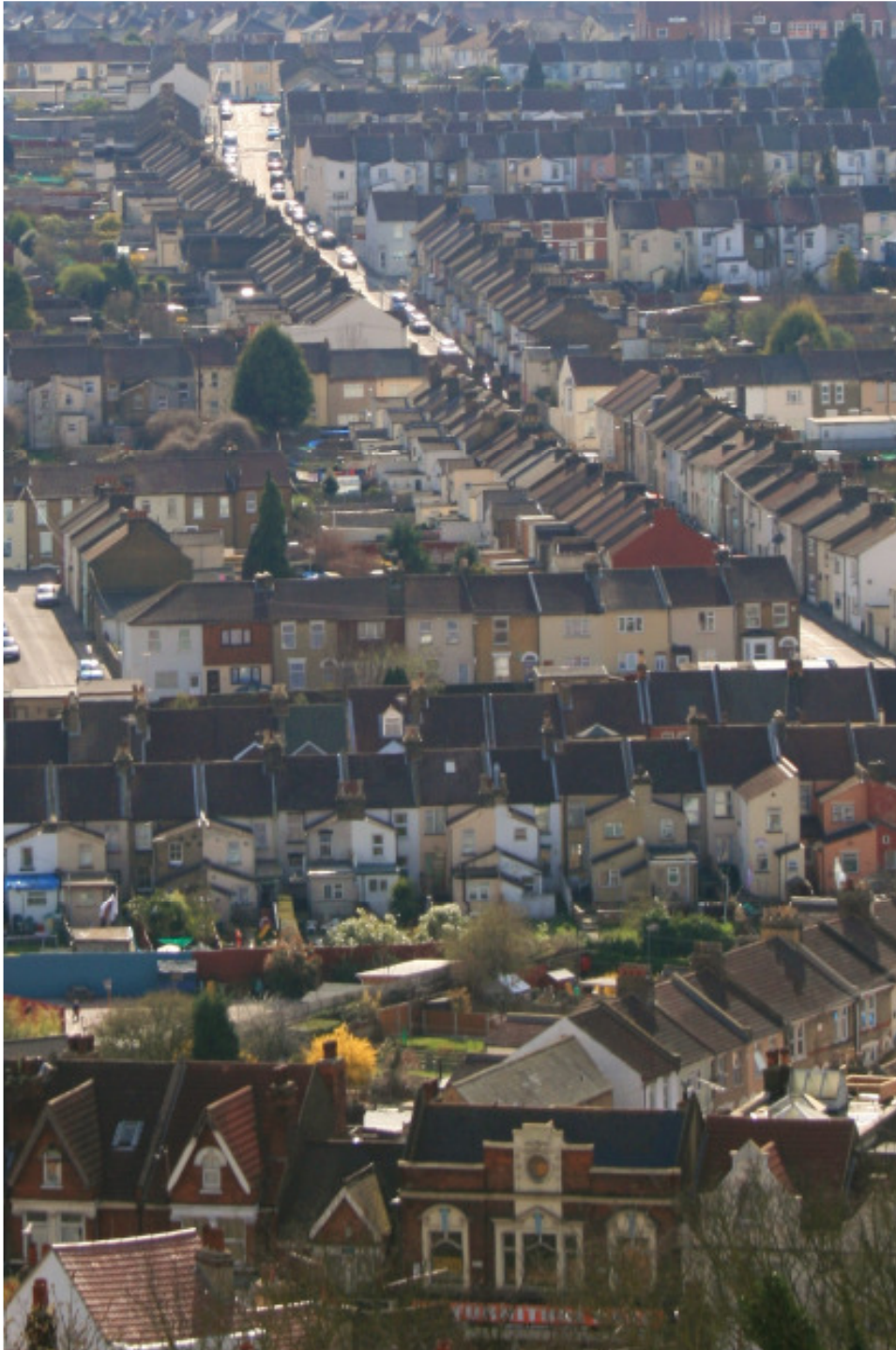
# Environmentally Sustainable Housing in Medway



## New Affordable Housing

- One of the priorities in the Affordable Housing Strategy 2008-11 is to raise the standards in housing
- The Code for Sustainable Homes measures the sustainability of a home against nine design categories, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package
- Each category includes a number of environmental issues which have a potential impact on the environment
- Every new affordable home in Medway must meet at least level 3
- Level 4 homes now being delivered – 6 family homes in September 2009. A further 5 family homes are currently going through the planning process





## The Existing Stock

### Purchase and Repair Scheme

- Medway Council is committed to working with our Housing Association partners to deliver a purchase and repair scheme
- All of the properties will be delivered to a minimum of the Decent Homes Standard
- The properties will be brought back into use as Social Rent with the Council having nomination rights
- Local people will have increased choice and more opportunity to move to a quality home within their existing community
- Returned 20 properties back into use in 2009/10

## Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)

- During 2009 the UK Government consulted on a new approach to achieving targeted carbon reduction in areas with significant low income issues
- Funded through an additional £350 million obligation placed on both energy suppliers and energy generators
- The prioritisation process for CESP intervention is based exclusively on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and 6 areas in Medway are eligible
- Currently working in partnership with Creative Environment Networks, mhs Homes and our Housing team to improve over 600 properties





## Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency

- Creative Environmental Networks (CEN) commissioned to undertake work to reduce fuel poverty
- Outreach events with trained Energy advisor during which 40 Home Energy Checks were completed
- Community Champions recruited from harder to reach groups. Over 100 people attended the workshops
- Renewable energy campaign targeting 4,000 households for solar hot water grants
- Training for over 30 frontline council staff to improve the referral process for insulation measures
- 20 energy monitors lent out by 5 public libraries

## In Focus Project

We have undertaken targeted housing research across Medway to provide information on the overall condition of the housing stock

The data can be interrogated down to an individual property level and used to model the possible impact of improvements

The All Saints and Luton area has been identified as a priority area and we are targeting our resources to:-

- Improve housing standards, choice and affordability
- Improve health, well-being and reduce health inequalities
- Bring empty properties back into use





## In Focus Project Outcomes 2009/10

### Specialist Housing Advice Officers

- 2 Officers provided under the Migration Impact Funding Scheme
- Three weekly housing advice surgeries

### Better Use of the Existing Stock

- 42 empty properties brought back into use
- 23 overcrowded households rehoused
- 49 households received grant assistance to repairs and improvements
- 7 vulnerable households received grant assistance to remedy a crisis in their home