

Unless they can get a 'package' from their Estate Agent, the Home Information Packs are apparently costing sellers around £350 plus VAT. I am told that potential bidders do not even bother to read them and the Energy Performance Certificate within the pack is making no difference whatsoever in decision-making if a buyer is keen to purchase a property. To cap it all, it now transpires that the buyer, for whom this fiasco was created by a nonsensical department within the New Labour, has to pay the Estate Agents between £10 and £20 to have a copy of the pack printed off because it is so weighty and only available on-line.

Having been involved in the process of debating the merits or otherwise of the pack since 1999, the situation described above causes little surprise. What does concern me is the cost and the total waste of money over these years. This is one example in housing. What about similar waste in health, transport and education, with equivalent misguided legislation and policy from a Labour Government?

Cllr. Michael Dixon (Conservative)  
St Chad's Ward  
Sunderland City Council