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**Review of Older People's Engagement with Government – CPA's
response to John Elbourne's Report to Government issued 18 November
2008**

John Elbourne's report¹ highlights the government's progress and achievements over the past ten years in engaging and consulting with older citizens. It recognises the positive role of Better Government for Older People (BGOP) and also the diverse groups of people who have come together to provide a collective voice for older people in many different forums and organisations. The report also points out lost opportunities and the need for new structures to enhance and take forward the engagement of older people at all levels of government.

The Centre for Policy on Ageing² welcomes the debate. Gillian Crosby, CPA's director commented, 'It is vital that we listen to and engage with older people to ensure that their needs and aspirations are included when planning and providing services. The government is committed to older people having more choice and control in their lives, and with a major say about how money for their help will be spent. How government engages with older people is critical and it is right that all parties involved should consider carefully the best way to proceed for the next ten years.'

End.

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Notes

1. 'Review of Older People's Engagement with Government: John Elbourne – Report to Government' was published on 18 November 2008 by the Department for Work and Pensions. The report can be downloaded from the DWP website http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/ind_review_older_peoples_eng_with_govt.asp and it is also available via the CPA Policies on Ageing website http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing. The Government has invited comments on John Elbourne's report by 9 January 2009 and will provide a final response by 30 January 2009.
2. The Centre for Policy on Ageing is currently hosting Better Government for Older People.