

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

13 NOVEMBER 2002

WLGA PRESENTATION

THE CASE FOR GREATER INVESTMENT IN WELSH HOUSING

Housing conditions in Wales remain amongst the worst in the United Kingdom and everyone agrees that more must be done to improve them. In April this year, the Association presented a paper setting out the case for additional investment in housing to the Partnership Council. Our aim was to stimulate a national debate about key aspects of housing policy where additional investment is required.

The Assembly's own strategy *Better Homes* recognises the contribution which decent, safe and affordable housing can make to so many of the Assembly's key objectives, not least improving health, promoting social inclusion and tackling inequality. Housing investment has had relatively low priority within the Assembly's budget to date and we believe much greater priority must be given to housing in the future to help tackle conditions which undermine health and economic activity; stifle learning and ambition; and, sadly, contribute to an environment in which disaffection fosters and hope dwindles..

The Association will be publishing the attached Manifesto in order to generate more of a debate on housing and build cross party support for additional investment to improve housing conditions in the run up to the Election. Our Manifesto focuses on:

- The future of council housing
- Private sector renewal
- Job opportunities from greater investment in housing

- Affordability
- Rural issues
- Older people
- The future of supported housing
- Homelessness and housing rightsb
- Housing and regeneration
- Examples of what local authorities are already doing to implement the housing agenda in Wales

The Association very much welcomes the opportunity to discuss these issues with the Committee on 13 November 2002.