

Transfers of Resources Between Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs) within the Housing & Local Government Other Services Main Expenditure Group (MEG)

Transfer from Housing Management BEL to Home Improvement BEL

It has been agreed that £100,000 can be transferred from the Housing Management Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) to the Home Improvement Agencies (HIA) BEL. The HIA BEL provides funding for Care & Repair services in Wales. The additional funding will enable the umbrella body Care & Repair Cymru to finance recent administrative and structural changes that have taken place in the last twelve months.

The changes have led to the development of six new posts within the organisation:

- Deputy Director
- Senior Regional Officer
- Agency Support Officer x 2
- Quality officer
- Central Support Assistant – plus upgrading of the existing administrative posts

The new arrangements will in particular enable Care & Repair Cymru to focus closely on agency support and service development in the run-up to enhanced funding in 2003-04. Care & Repair Cymru has had a significant role in setting up Strategic Business Planning Groups in each local authority so that each agency is in the best possible position to benefit from enhanced funding once it comes on stream.

£150,000 of funding has been allocated in the Housing Management BEL for the encompassing of complaints against Registered Social Landlords (RSL) within the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman. However, primary legislation is required to implement the necessary change and it is not clear at this stage that the required clauses to bring the legislative change in are going to be included in the proposed forthcoming housing bill. Even if the housing bill goes ahead in the coming Parliamentary session and the additional clauses were included, it is envisaged that it would be some way into the financial year 2003-04 at the earliest before monies were provided for the Ombudsman.