



Initial views on the Welsh Government's Net Zero Plan

Community Housing Cymru (CHC)

We are pleased to see that a cross-departmental Plan has been established which sets out how climate change will be tackled in Wales. CHC represents housing associations in Wales, and therefore this submission will focus on the Residential Buildings chapter of the Plan, particularly relating to social housing.

The Plan sets out the positive support that the Welsh Government has been and is giving the social sector to decarbonise, including investment in social housing capital grants to build 20,000 new, low carbon social homes and in the Optimised Retrofit and Innovative Housing Programmes. We welcome this investment which begins to allow housing associations to retrofit and build new, low carbon, affordable homes.

We are pleased to see the Plan recognise that decarbonising homes will act as a significant fiscal stimulus, which will support local supply chains and help grow and develop a new skills base. The Plan also recognises the need to tackle fuel poverty and support householders with behaviour change, two areas that are a priority for housing associations.

Ambition statements within the Plan have been informed by the Wales 2050 calculator, including the ambition that by 2025, around 148,000 houses across Wales are expected to receive retrofit measures to reduce heat loss. We would like to better understand the calculations of the Wales 2050 calculator in order to establish how many of these homes include social rented homes. Housing associations in Wales are determined to reach decarbonisation targets, and must have the right support in place to enable them to do so in an ambitious but viable way.

Given that the Plan incorporates a number of different departments and sectors, combining all the various commitments was likely to be a huge task. Despite this, we feel it is vital that strong

communication links are built and maintained between government departments on climate change. We agree that an ambitious vision is essential to tackling the climate change emergency, and believe the most effective way of creating this vision is to work closely across government departments. Overall, the Plan clearly sets out the role that social housing will play in tackling the climate change emergency and makes readers aware of the hard work that both Welsh Government and housing associations are undertaking to build and retrofit homes to high energy efficiency standards.