

## **NFA joins leading housing organisations in joint submission to Government on Comprehensive Spending Review**

Press release

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The National Federation of ALMOs has joined key industry bodies, the National Housing Federation and the Chartered Institute of Housing, to make a powerful submission to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review pressing the case for continued investment in the sector.

Titled '*Responsible Choices for a Fairer Future*', the document argues that 'continued and sustained investment' in housing and associated areas is 'critical' if Britain is to emerge from the current economic challenges in a stronger position and if the Government is to deliver on its pledge to limit, as far as possible, the impact of spending reductions on the most vulnerable individuals and communities in society.

The report highlights how spending on housing generates high economic returns – protecting and creating jobs, offering employment and training opportunities, particularly for young people, improving health and educational outcomes and reducing crime. ALMOs around the country have developed highly successful initiatives in all these areas – and more – delivering 'quality of life' benefits into their communities over and above their Decent Homes programmes.

The document strongly argues the case for a self financed future for ALMOs and councils from April 2011 saying that it will help deliver real control and responsibility in the management of council housing. It says:

***'Self-financing will give the council housing sector the stability that will enable more effective business planning, better asset management and deliver long-term efficiencies and value for money to the taxpayer.'***

It argues that local councils and ALMOs should be responsible for managing their own debt to enable the organisations to adequately plan their investments in the long term.

The report also highlights the significant need that remains within social housing, identifying £2.4 billion required for essential home improvement works and another £850million needed to clear the sector's repairs backlog.

With some 4.5 million people on housing registers and 2.6 million trapped in overcrowded homes, the reports also argues that the need for affordable homes has never been more acute. It recommends that the Government should invest £9.5 billion over the next four years to provide some 150,000 new affordable homes.

The report concludes: “The country faces a difficult period but our organisations are committed to rising to the challenge of tackling the severe housing crisis which impacts the life chances of millions of people and constrains their ability to meet their full potential. We look forward to working with the Government to help deliver economic growth, re-balance the economy and create a fairer society.”

## **Ends**

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