



All Party Parliamentary Group for ALMOs

MPs JOIN TOGETHER TO PROMOTE POSITIVE FUTURE FOR COUNCIL HOUSING

All Party Parliamentary Group for ALMOs Launched

Wednesday 19 July 2006

Nearly 40 MPs and Peers have launched an All Party Parliamentary Group to promote the benefits and further development of council housing arms length management organisations (ALMOs).

Included amongst the members are the housing spokespeople from the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats. Nearly three quarters of the members have ALMOs in their constituency including the Chair, Clive Betts MP from Sheffield Attercliffe.

The aim of the Group will be to provide a forum for discussion by Parliamentarians about issues relevant to ALMOs including securing adequate funding to further enhance housing standards after the Decent Homes standard has been achieved, enabling new build to help meet growing waiting lists and improving communities and local environments through safer, cleaner, greener neighbourhoods.

A key feature of the Group will, like ALMOs themselves, be the involvement of tenants in meetings and activities.

Clive Betts said:

“There is a strong body of support for ALMOs within Parliament, especially amongst those MPs who have them in their constituency and we aim to provide them with a forum to discuss issues concerning council housing. We will also provide access by tenants to Parliament so MPs and peers can hear at first hand their experience of living in ALMO run estates and to enable them to participate in debate about actions and policies that affect their lives.”

Dennis Rees, Chairman of the National Federation of ALMOs, tenant and Chair of Derby Homes, said:

“ALMOs have delivered real achievements since their inception just four years ago and we want to ensure that MPs are aware of these outstanding successes. The set up of the APPG will continue to promote the benefits and ensure a positive development of ALMOs in the future.

The launch of the All Party Group follows a major lobby event last month at the Houses of Parliament to profile the merits of genuine tenant involvement in council housing attended by over 40 tenant representatives and nearly 50 MPs and Peers of all parties. The housing spokespeople for all three major parties spoke in praise of what ALMOs have achieved.

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Notes To Editors:

- The officers of the All Party Parliamentary Group for ALMOs are:

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|----------------|---------------------------|-----|------------|
| Clive Betts MP | Sheffield Attercliffe | Lab | Chair |
| Greg Hands MP | Hammersmith and Fulham | Con | Vice Chair |
| Tom Brake MP | Carshalton and Wallington | LD | Vice Chair |
| Ann Keen MP | Brentford and Isleworth | Lab | Vice Chair |
| Brian Iddon MP | Bolton SE | Lab | Secretary |

- The Group has prepared a programme for the year which will include a visit to an ALMO and discussions about the Hills Review, housing finance and new build.
- The APPG will be serviced and supported by the National Federation of ALMOs
- ALMOs, the council housing management option that empowers tenants, currently manage 895,000 council properties. This figure is set to grow to 1 million by the end of this year, which will then include half of all council dwellings in England. In the four years since they were established, ALMOs have brought over 100,000 homes up to the Government's Decent Homes Standard. The first ALMOs have achieved this across their entire housing portfolio five years ahead of the 2010 target date.

The APPG for ALMOs is provided with administrative support by The Public Affairs Company and RAM PR on behalf of, and funded by, the National Federation of ALMOs.