

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION AND DRAFT NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Purpose

1. The Homelessness Commission was a "task and finish" group constituted by Mrs Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Housing at the Local Government and Housing Committee on the 15th November 2000, to advise the Assembly on how it could meet its objectives to tackle homelessness.
2. An Interim Report on the work of the Commission was presented to the Local Government and Housing Committee in May 2001.
3. It presented its final report to the Minister in August 2001. The report addressed a broad range of policy areas relating to the causes and consequences of homelessness. It contains 91 recommendations for action to be taken by the Welsh Assembly Government and other bodies.
4. The Commission's report was considered and welcomed by the Local Government and Housing Committee ("the Committee") in October 2001, and by the full Assembly in Plenary on the 20th November 2001. The National Assembly resolved that a report should be presented to the Committee on its responses to the recommendations, attached at Annex 1.
5. The National Assembly also resolved that the report to the Committee should include a framework for a National Homelessness Strategy – Annex 2.

Timing

6. These reports have been prepared to inform the Committee of the Assembly Government's responses to the recommendations of the Homelessness Commission, and to provide the Committee with a copy of the Draft National Homelessness Strategy.

Decision

7. The Committee is invited to note the Assembly Government's responses to the recommendations of the Homelessness Commission and to note and comment on the Draft

National Homelessness Strategy, which is being published for consultation purposes.