



Department for  
**Social  
Development**

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lighthouse Building  
1 Cromac Place  
Gasworks Business Park  
Ormeau Road  
BELFAST  
BT7 2JB**

Fax: (028) 9082 9548  
e-mail: [private.office@dndni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@dndni.gov.uk)

**Tel: (028) 9082 9034**

Mr Alex Maskey MLA  
Chairperson  
Social Development Committee  
Room 412  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3XX

Our ref: SUB/1111/2011

23 June 2011

Dear Alex

Please find attached the new Social Housing Development Programme for the current financial year 2011/12.

The Programme has been developed by the Housing Executive who manage and oversee its delivery on behalf of my Department. The spread of activity has been formulated against the Housing Executive's four broad strategic guideline targets for Urban Need, Rural Need, Supported Housing and Travellers.

The recent budget settlement will provide approximately £143m that could start up to 1,400 new homes over the course of this year. I will of course explore other avenues that may help us deliver even more than this.

We are for example already looking at alternative funding proposals and I want to see what further potential exists to improve the efficiency of how housing associations manage, maintain and procure their work. I will also look to build more homes on land already owned by the Housing Executive.

I also want to look at how we identify and target housing need to make sure the resources at our disposal are used in the most appropriate manner.

The new programme will shortly be published on the Housing Executive's website. I trust you will find this advance notice useful and I look forward to working constructively with the Committee to identify how we can maximise the return for the significant investment we are still able to make in meeting housing need.

**Nelson McCausland**

**NELSON McCAUSLAND MLA  
Minister for Social Development**



EMV - FOR IN PEOPLE