

## ALMOS LETTER

To the Editor, Nottingham Evening Post

3rd June 2004

How lovely to see my Minister, Keith Hill MP, engaging in a debate about ALMO's through the letters column of the Evening Post (29 May). He and I take quite different views on this and it would be good if the Post invited him to debate the proposals with me, here in Nottingham, before tenants have their vote.

Keith's 'corrections' of my comments don't stand up. The £1bn allocated to ALMO's is significantly less than originally promised. This is what has left them in financial difficulties. As for tenant representation on ALMO's, evidence given at the House of Commons hearings on ALMO's was of tenant voices being ignored, Executive Boards being remote and high handed and ALMO's moving beyond any line of democratic accountability.

ALMO's will become the death of council housing. The Council loses the right to say how its housing stock is managed. Before long it will be sold off to private interests.

My position, like that of the Local Government Association, is to argue that tenants should have the right to the 'Fourth Option'; to remain as council tenants and have the money directed through the local authority.

With tenants rejecting ALMO's around the country, Keith needs to come to Nottingham and explain to tenants themselves why he continues to deny them this choice.