

Camden Defend Council Housing 77% vote No to ALMO



Come and help win

Direct investment in council housing

7pm Tuesday 10 Feb

Camden Town Hall, Judd St, WC1
(nearest  Euston/Kings X)

Speakers to include:

Frank Dobson and other MPs
Cllr. Jane Roberts, Leader of Camden Council
Tenants, trade unionists and
Alan Walter, Defend Council Housing

We demand the 'fourth option' Tell ministers to give Camden the £283m offered for ALMO

For more information and to help campaign: PHONE 020 7419 4923 WRITE Camden DCH c/o 42 Aborfield, Peckwater Estate, London NW5 2UD WEBSITE www.defendcouncilhousing.org.uk E-MAIL camden@defendcouncilhousing.org.uk

We stopped the ALMO and now we are fighting for direct investment.

Tenants are not just rejecting stock transfer. For the first time we are also saying we reject two-stage privatisation via ALMOs.

The tide is turning. Our united campaign by tenants, trade unionists and other supporters of council housing can win direct investment with no strings attached!



Tell Ministers

GIVE CAMDEN THE £283m NOW **We demand the fourth option direct investment with no strings attached**

The overwhelming 77% No vote by Camden tenants against an ALMO reflects a strong commitment to council housing and deep opposition to this government's attempts to privatise public services. We want to guarantee a long term future for decent, affordable, secure and accountable council housing for all who need it.

Tenants are clear that ALMO is a two-stage strategy to privatise council housing. They rejected the bribe of new kitchens and bathrooms and dismissed the arguments that separating housing strategy from day to day management would bring any benefits, or that having tenants on a board of directors would give tenants any real power. The ability to hold your landlord accountable via the ballot box, combined with maintaining a strong and independent tenants' movement is the best strategy for defending the principle of council housing and tenants' wider interests.

Tenants have not voted to 'stay as you are' but for direct investment with no strings attached. The government has itself formally recognised that Camden's housing department is a 'good performer'. The £283 million on offer to an ALMO belongs to council housing it comes from tenants' rents and capital receipts from the sale of council homes.

We now call on the government to respect 'tenants choice' and concede that Camden council can directly access the £283 million that was offered if an ALMO was set up to fund the improvements tenants need. We demand a fourth option direct investment in council housing with no strings attached.

Get every tenant and union rep and councillors to sign the statement (above)

Tenants have had enough of the blackmail, telling us we can only get improvements on our estates if we allow them to break up council housing.

Council housing makes sense and could pay for itself if government allowed it. All money from tenants' rents should be used to invest in our homes. Instead of pouring money in to subsidise wasteful stock transfer, PFI or ALMO, use that money for an investment allowance that councils can use to improve our homes.

Pressure on ministers is growing. Tenants and trade unionists and increasing numbers of MPs, councillors and housing policymakers are calling for a new fourth option. We have to remind John Prescott that he said in Parliament in June, 'We will try to provide adequate funding for those who want to stay with local authorities.'

Join the campaign. 130 MPs signed the last early day motion in Parliament. Make sure your MP signs the new EDM (No 430) on Investment and choice for council tenants.

Get your Tenants Association or trade union to affiliate, order campaign material and register on our website (see over) for regular updates. If you are in Camden get campaign posters up on your estate and sign the campaign statement calling on ministers to give the council the £283m direct.

Camden tenants have expressed a clear 'choice' we want direct investment in council housing.

This vote creates the shockwaves through government and policymakers that we need to achieve.

We want the government to stop discriminating against council housing.

Give tenants a 'fourth option' so the council can get on with their job improving our estates.

Alan Walter, Camden Defend Council Housing

We have done everything the government has asked of us and more. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister wants us to achieve decent homes. We want it, our tenants want it we have to be able to access that money which is already there.

Councillor Jane Roberts, Leader Camden Council (Guardian, 13 Jan)

The big question for the government is what is important sticking to rules or actually making things happen sticking to the three options or achieving the decent homes standard?

Neil Litherland, Director of Housing, Camden (Guardian, 13 Jan)

It makes not a jot of difference to public finances whether the extra money comes directly from the government or via an ALMO.

Frank Dobson MP (Inside Housing, 16 Jan)

Something is going to have to give and I doubt if it is the tenants' views

Roy Irwin, Head of Housing, Audit Commission on the need for new investment options (16 December 2003)

Councils have been given new hope of concessions from the government after housing minister Keith Hill pledged to work with one of Labour's flagship boroughs to help it meet the decent homes target.

Inside Housing front page (16 Jan)

The whole TUC support your campaign. I am proud to say I was literally born in a council house. Mine was one of the families that benefited for the first time in many generations from the opportunity of decent housing and it's a cause well worth fighting for.

Frances O'Grady, TUC deputy general secretary at national DCH lobby of parliament (29 Jan 2003)