

Defend Council Housing

Model Motion for tenants, union, political and other organisations, 15 July 2007

We [name of organisation] welcome statements by the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, that the government wants to provide an additional 3 million homes by 2020 and will enable local authorities to start building thousands of new council homes.

We are however concerned of an over reliance on the private sector. They have never delivered decent, affordable and secure housing that millions of people need - that's why there were mass campaigns to get local authorities to build council housing in the first place.

We support the five demands endorsed by the Defend Council Housing national conference at the TUC on July 12.

- 1. Enable local authorities to improve all existing council homes and estates;**
- 2. Allow local authorities to start a new council house building programme;**
- 3. Ensure that local authorities have sufficient revenue to maintain all council homes in future years;**
- 4. Detailed proposals and a clearly defined timetable for implementation;**
- 5. An immediate moratorium on any further transfers, PFI or ALMOs, demolition schemes or sale of council land and properties, until the new options have been formulated, to give tenants real choice.**

The 'Fourth Option' principles of ring-fencing all revenue and capital receipts and a level playing field on debt write-off and gap funding would directly benefit some 200 local authorities across the UK. They include those retaining their homes, those with ALMOs and those where tenants have rejected privatisation or not yet voted. And all authorities across England, Scotland and Wales would gain from the opportunity to build new council housing.

There now needs to be detailed discussion, involving representatives of the tenants, trade unionists, councillors and MPs who support the 'Fourth Option', to agree practical measures to meet our objectives. This must include a clearly defined timescale that meets the needs of tenants who are still waiting for improvements to their homes and estates.

We need to make sure that sound bites are turned into concrete proposals that secure a long term future for council housing and direct investment to replace the bullying and blackmailing of tenants to accept privatisation.

Tenants,
trade unions,
councillors
and MPs say:

'FOURTH OPTION' for COUNCIL HOUSING



to improve existing council homes and estates and start a new council house building programme



To help bring this campaign to a speedy successful conclusion we agree to:

- a) Hold a "Hands Up for the 'Fourth Option'" press photo opportunity involving tenants, trade unionists and councillors in our area;
- b) Organise a broad based campaign against any stock transfer, PFI or ALMO in our area and ensure that tenants are aware we are winning the argument for direct investment in council housing;
- c) Order and distribute the latest DCH newspaper to tenants, councillors and trade unionists in our area (£18 per 100 / £100 per 1000 copies)
- d) Encourage individuals to sign the Downing Street e-petition
www.petitions.pm.gov.uk/fourth-option/
- e) Ask our MPs to sign EDM 136 'Funding Decent Council Housing'
- f) Affiliate and make a donation to Defend Council Housing
- g) Send this motion to appropriate national bodies, local authorities, MPs and the press with a copy to DCH.

