

Model Motion – *discuss this at your tenant, union, political group and community organisation*

No Means Tests and Market Rents

The Conservative Government, claiming to be the party of ‘hard working blue collar workers’, is threatening huge rent rises for working tenants of Councils or housing associations. Any household earning more than a total £30,000 a year, or £40,000 in London, is threatened with doubling or tripling rents to ‘market’ level, forcing people out of their homes and communities. Existing council rents are not ‘subsidised’ as Ministers falsely claim; council rents are lower because they are not based on maximised profits. Tenants did not cause the economic crash and austerity, but are being asked to pay for it.

Charging market rents for working households would:

- *deter members from work, promotion or overtime, undermining the idea of ‘mixed communities’
- * force affected households to move, or take in lodgers and intensify overcrowding.
- * Push some to consider Right to Buy leaseholding, though most can not afford this even with maximum discount
- * as with the Poll Tax, push many off the rent book, and create further conflict as tenants refuse to declare income and challenge landlords’ powers to force disclosure

We will:

Campaign with tenants and trade unions to expose and challenge this policy
call on councillors and MPs to oppose it
call on council and housing association landlords to actively oppose it: no spying on tenants
support action to resist this attack
support members to campaign on housing problems, to link up and defend the right to secure homes we can afford

Push this motion up to regional and national levels of your organisation. For speakers and further information contact info@defendcouncilhousing.org.uk t 07432 098440 PO Box 33519 London E2 9WW