Defend Council Housing

Pickles must apologise

IT IS OUTRAGEOUS that Communities Minister Eric Pickles describes London council homes as 'Brownfield estates'. This description is in a research brief part funded by Government, into the profitability of redevelopment on council estates in London.

A Brownfield is 'a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination' (Oxford English Dictionary).

Does the 'Brownfield' slur refer to our secure council tenancies and our really-affordable council rents? Many London estates are structurally sound, with green space and thriving mixed communities, needing proper investment not demolition.

We demand Eric Pickles apologise for and retract this description of council homes and withdraw funding from this research project. Government must invest in improving existing and building new first class council housing for rent without strings attached.

Signed

Phil Sedler, Chair, Tower Hamlets Tenants Federation
Paul Burnham, Secretary, Haringey Defend Council Housing
Eileen Short, Chair, Defend Council Housing
Austin Mitchell MP, Chair, House of Commons Council Housing Group
John McDonnell MP, Hayes and Harlington
Lutfur Rahman, elected Mayor LB Tower Hamlets
Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales
Megan Dobney, Regional Secretary, Southern & Eastern Region TUC
Steve Murphy, General Secretary, construction union UCATT
Heather Wakefield, Unison Head of Local Government, Police and Justice
Gail Cartmail, Assistant General Secretary, Unite union
Lee Jasper, Black People Rising Against Cuts (BARAC)
Zita Holbourne, National Co-Chair, BARAC UK & PCS union national executive
Jimmy Devlin, Chair, North West Tenants and Residents Assembly
Diana Minns, John Marais, Elected Tenant Reps, Cambridge City Council
Edinburgh Tenants Federation
UNISON Community and Voluntary Organisations Branch
Unite Housing Workers branch
Clare Moore, council tenant, LB Lambeth
John Calderon, tenant, LB Hackney
Steve Fannon, Nieves Carazo-Minguez, Roehampton Alton Estate, LB Wandsworth
Clive Peace, council tenant, Cambridge
Tom Woodcock, Secretary, Cambridge and District Trades Council

To add your voice (and others) to this petition fill in below and return to:
info@defendcouncilhousing.org.uk or by post to **DCH, PO Box 33519, London E2 9WW**

Name	Position (if any) / Organisation