

STAND UP FOR COUNCIL HOUSING

Tenants, trade unionists and other supporters of council housing across Camden are organising against council plans to sell off empty homes, privatise some estates and cutback, centralise and privatise services.

We've successfully defeated previous attempts to attack council housing in Camden. We stopped stock transfer in 1997/8, saw off attempts to privatise care-taking in 2000/1, defeated the ALMO in 2004 and Maiden Lane tenants rejected PFI later that year. We're not going to let this council get away with it either.

The council says that selling 500 homes and privatising some estates is the only way to raise money to improve Camden's homes and estates. But with 15,000 on the council waiting list and many more living in overcrowded conditions every single council home that becomes vacant is desperately needed.

Tenants don't want to lose our secure tenancies, lower rents and charges and a landlord we can hold to account - that's what happens if our estates are 'regenerated' and sold to a so-called Registered Social Landlord.

Councillors are also proposing, as part of a wider cuts package, to cut, privatise and centralise housing management. It will lead to a more remote and less accountable service with caretakers replaced by agency cleaners.

The council's strategy is pure cowardice. The long term hole in

Camden's housing finances won't be solved by selling off homes this year. We need to win a change in government policy (the 'Fourth Option') to secure the future for council housing. The danger is that if we allow Camden to start selling homes and privatising estates now they will come back for more each and every year!

We expect elected councillors to stand up for Camden tenants. We expect them to back the national campaign involving tenants, trade unions, councillors and MPs across parties to win the 'Fourth Option'.

Camden plans to submit their 'options appraisal' proposals to government claiming that they have our support. But in May tenants' reps meeting as the Joint District Management Committee (representing Tenants & Residents Associations across Camden) voted almost unanimously against the council's proposals.

Two council organised seminars before the summer passed the same resolution. Recent seminars have been equally hostile. The council's current expensive CONsultation doesn't even ask tenants whether they support selling homes or privatising estates. It's fundamentally dishonest.

Support the campaign to win the improvements we need to our homes and estates and secure a long term future for council housing in Camden without sell-offs and privatisation.



WHAT YOU CAN DO...

The Council is pretending it genuinely wants to know what tenants think. Yet again they're spending a small fortune (from our rents) on glossy pamphlets, expensive mailings and seminars. But their CONsultation is fundamentally dishonest. It doesn't even ask the direct question whether we want homes and estates sold - yet this is what they propose to submit to the government suggesting that this strategy has our support.

- Get your Tenants & Residents Association (TRA) to oppose these proposals.
- Sign our open letter to Ministers and councillors.
- Propose your TRA affiliate to DCH and make a donation to the campaign
- Help distribute the campaign newspaper
- Organise a meeting and invite a speaker

NO SELL-OFFS ● NO PRIVATISATION NO CUTS ● NO CENTRALISATION