

STAND UP FOR COUNCIL HOUSING

SEPTEMBER 22ND

A national *Stand Up for Council Housing* day on September 22nd will be a follow up to our successful lobby of parliament in January.

Council tenants, trade unions and local campaigns are planning local activity around the country to build support for our agenda – our Manifesto for Council Housing.

Government and many local councils are telling us there is no alternative but transfer, PFI or Arms Length Companies to run our homes.

But tenants, trade unionists and campaigners are united behind a common Manifesto for first class, affordable, secure housing – and we are a powerful and growing force.

This government has no mandate to privatise our homes. All polls show a clear majority of voters opposed to privatisation of public services.

Tenants around the country demand the right to say YES to more investment in our homes. We will not accept the blackmail we are presented with: that voting NO to transfer means no alternative and no hope.

Opposition is growing

In the last year tenants in Waverley, Wycombe, South Beds, Barnsley, Southend and Fareham have rejected transfer. Others have forced their council to back off before a ballot, in Exeter, Southwark and Ealing.

This opposition is growing. 1,500 attended our lobby of parliament. More than 60 MPs and candidates from many parties have signed up to our Manifesto. Already we have forced concessions from the government.

More appealing Arms Length Companies are being presented as an 'alternative'. But they aim to fragment opposition to allow easier privatisation at a later date.

Important climb-down

In an important climb-down the government reports "all local authorities will be free to borrow" against their rental income from April 2004.

Decent secure, affordable and accountable council housing is a principle worth defending. We have a strong alliance determined to defend it.

Government on the defensive

We have the government on the defensive. We should reject pressure to accept transfer, PFI or ALCs. We want investment in council housing with no strings!

On Stand Up for Council Housing day, September 22nd – unite across estates, towns and cities to demand direct investment in council housing with no strings. We can win this – and we will!

What are you planning in your area?

For further information, leaflets, posters and signup sheets on the '*Manifesto for Council Housing*' and *Stand Up For Council Housing Day* contact any of the sponsors or DCH PO Box 33519, London E8 4XW tel: 020 7275 9994 info@defendcouncilhousing.org.uk www.defendcouncilhousing.org.uk

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 'SIGN UP' tenants, tenants' associations and federations, councillors, MPs and union branches to the '*Manifesto for Council Housing*'
- LEAFLET every council HOME for 'Stand Up For Council Housing' Day
- ORGANISE Street Stalls and get tenants reps and other campaigners on car loudspeakers alongside mass leafleting to talk about the campaign
- HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING with a broad platform demonstrating support for the campaign
- MEET your local MPs and ask for a DEPUTATION to speak to the next Council meeting
- HELP SET UP new Tenants Associations and revitalise old ones to make the tenants movement a real force
- ARRANGE AN ORGANISING MEETING to help setup teams to leaflet every council home and other activity around September 22nd. Involve tenants reps, trade unionists, campaigners, sympathetic councillors and all the local political parties who support our **Manifesto**

A MANIFESTO FOR COUNCIL HOUSING

STOP PRIVATISATION - INVEST IN COUNCIL HOUSING

- first class council housing - decent, affordable, secure and accountable
- tenants keep security of tenure - no watering down our rights
- do the repairs, improve our estates - clear the £19 billion backlog with no strings attached
- well-managed, good quality housing services - guarantee proper jobs, with security and training
- build new council homes to meet housing need
- a tenants' vote on any changes - honest debate and equal funding for tenants' organisations and campaigns
- spend our rents on our homes - not on fat cats, consultants and Daylight Robbery

