

There can be no resolution of the housing crisis without a return to a large scale council house building/acquisitions programme



thelabourcampaignforcouncilhousing.org

The **Labour Campaign for Council Housing** was established in 2019 by a group of Labour Party members and activists who believe that radical action needs to be taken to resolve the acute housing crisis. We believe that social rent council housing is the key to resolving the crisis. We are, therefore, seeking to influence Labour Party policy at local and national government level to ensure that the council homes that our communities need are funded and built, and that these homes are well maintained, have security of tenure and genuinely affordable social rent.

In our first year we managed, through our model conference resolution, to win a policy of funding 100,000 council homes a year and ending the disastrous policy of Right to Buy. These were incorporated into the General Election manifesto that year.

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the 1945 Labour government we believe that today, as with the Atlee government, the priority is for homes for rent. Aneurin Bevan said that “The speculative private builder is not a plannable instrument”. The big builders and developers will not build homes for rent with genuinely affordable 'social rent'. They build at a pace and a scale which maximises their profit and the dividends of their shareholders. They have never built for social needs save for when they build for councils.

There are 130,000 households in temporary accommodation, 1.3 million households on council waiting lists, and 4 million in the expensive and often poor quality private sector. These people are in no position to buy homes. Their best hope is council housing with secure tenancies. But that cannot happen without government grants on a large scale.

As Andy Burnham recently said: “The govt should make building hundreds of thousands of council homes its defining purpose. No other policy achievable within a Parliament, would have greater social and economic benefits.”

Can we afford it? Despite far worse economic conditions than we face today – debt to GDP ratio was 250% then as compared to 100% today - the Atlee government launched the NHS, the welfare state, and built a million council homes. With political will the money can be found.

As well as Labour Party members and affiliates there are a host of housing campaigns, such as Shelter, tenants unions and Inside Housing that agree with us and are pressing the government to fund 90,000+ social rent homes a year. Building new council homes and improving the quality of existing homes will save money for the NHS by stopping people from becoming ill because of poor living conditions. It is the only way of rescuing young people from the insecurity of the private rental sector.

Join us in the campaign to make social rent council housing the government's first housing priority.

“The government should make building hundreds of thousands of council homes its defining purpose. No other policy achievable within a Parliament, would have greater social and economic benefits.”

Andy Burnham

Labour branches, CLPs and trade union branches can affiliate for £30 a year. Individual members can join for just £5. To find out how to join or affiliate, email us at labourcouncilhousingcampaign@gmail.com Or you can find a form on our website (shown above)