

2026 Labour Conference model resolution



thelabourcampaignforcouncilhousing.org

Housing

“Labour’s historic championing of council housing remains crucial today in tackling the nation’s escalating housing crisis.

John Wheatley, Labour’s 1924 housing minister, initiated funding for the “homes fit for heroes” that Lloyd George failed to deliver. Wheatley empowered councils to build large numbers of council homes.

Following Labour’s 1945 landslide, Nye Bevan, Minister of Health, launched a massive council house building programme. Labour and Conservatives subsequently competed to build the most homes. Up to 1980, 4.4 million council homes were built.

Margaret Thatcher’s Right to Buy sharply reduced the public role in housing. Today, private and “affordable” rents are unaffordable for many and homeownership is a distant dream. People in desperate housing need wait years for a council property.

To restore hope and meet the aspirations of millions seeking a safe and genuinely affordable home, the Labour Government must:

- invest in a council house building/acquisitions programme of 100,000 social rent homes a year;
- repeal Right to Buy;
- replace “affordable rent” with social rent;
- end above inflation rent increases for council and housing association tenants;
- direct all Affordable Homes Grant to providing social rent properties;
- promote council Direct Labour Organisations: in-sourcing a crucial service and providing well paid, unionised jobs and apprenticeships;
- end the Local Housing Allowance freeze and fully fund councils for temporary accommodation costs;
- ensure homes meet high environmental standards.

These initiatives would address acute housing need, reduce housing related ill-health, boost growth, and reduce Housing Benefit and temporary accommodation costs.”

(NOTE: If you move this resolution at your CLP please let us know whether or not it agreed to send it in as its resolution to the conference. Email labourcouncilhousingcampaign@gmail.com If you amend the resolution please note that the word limit is 250.)