

Resolution Date: 13th November 2018

Resolution Title: Council Housing Debt Campaign

This branch supports the appeal to reopen the 2012 debt settlement for council housing. This is a call which we made in our submission to the Labour Party consultation on social housing in January 2018 along with a call for increased grant funding. This appeal reports:

Unfortunately neither Labour's General Election Manifesto nor its 'Mini-Housing Manifesto' addressed this council housing funding crisis. It is completely unjust that councils are saddled with levels of bogus debt based on projected income which bears no comparison with what they are actually collecting. Council housing needs funding which is adequate for its needs and ensures decent standards for all tenants.

As a matter of urgency Labour needs to demand that the government reopen the debt settlement and at least cut the debt in line with the income lost as a result of policies since 2012. (Appeal on Debt Settlement)

We note that the 2018 Labour Green Paper recommended relaxing borrowing restrictions, now implemented by the government, and a return to 2010 spending levels on council housing. Labour has also called for a return to the scale of council house building in the 1970's. It is positive that Labour has raised the idea of a return to mass social house building, but it is essential that such aspirations are funded adequately.

Moved by Paul Kershaw

Appeal on debt settlement:

<https://councilhousingdebtcampaign.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/debtappealv2.pdf>

Unite LE1111 Housing Workers submission to the Labour Party consultation on social housing:

<http://www.housingworkers.org.uk/imgs/1516872666.pdf>

Analysis of Labour's 'Green Paper' on housing: <http://www.socialismtoday.org/219/housing.html>

Unite LE1111 Housing Workers analysis of government 'Green Paper' on housing:

http://www.housingworkers.org.uk/readnews.html?con_id=553
