

Resolution Date: 12th June 2018

Resolution Title: Labour Housing Green Paper

This branch welcomes Labour's Green Paper on housing as a further step towards developing a socialist housing policy capable of addressing the emergency situation in British society.

Government figures show a net loss of 3,620 council homes in London between 2016 and 2017. The Chartered Institute of Housing have further calculated that housing associations are responsible for a net loss of 46,972 social rented homes nationally since 2012, mainly through transfer to more profitable tenures.

We welcome the commitment to end the mis-named category of 'affordable homes' and steps to improve the regulation and accountability of housing associations.

We also welcome the commitment to build 100,000 'genuinely affordable' homes per year, a million over a decade, which would return house building to levels not seen since 1978.

However, we note with concern that the spending commitment is only to return spending to £4 billion – the level of spending of ten years ago under 'new Labour' when the housing crisis was deepening.

We also note with concern that the paper gives no indication of the breakdown of the new housing between different rent levels.

We resolve to campaign for 100,000 social rented homes per year backed by the required funding necessary funding as an indispensable basis to resolve the housing crisis.

We reaffirm our support for housing built by local authority direct labour.

Linked to a campaign for effective rent control, in line with existing Unite policy, Labour's housing policy would be hugely popular on the electoral plain.

Mover: Paul Kershaw