

Resolution Date: 13th October 2020

Resolution Title: Prevent the Eviction Wave

This branch notes that our branch has played an important role in building the campaign against evictions working with housing campaigns groups, particularly SHAC the network which we initiated that links housing association and coop residents and tenants with housing workers.

We note that this campaign has scored important victories in delaying the legal eviction process and SHAC has secured important assurances regarding evictions from several large housing associations.

The combined economic impact of the pandemic and the government's failure to defend workers however means that many workers will face mounting arrears and potential eviction. This is already being reflected in rising numbers of rough sleepers. Unite members are faced with the prospect of homelessness and our members with the potential role of carrying out evictions based on coronavirus related arrears.

We support organised attempts to prevent evictions and commit to raise this issue in Unite nationally.

We confirm our support for suspension of rents to prevent eviction. This was the Labour Party's policy but has been dropped under the current leadership. We will work to ensure that Unite fights to re-establish this policy.

This branch notes that Labour committed at its conference last year and in the 2019 manifesto to:

- build 155,000 social rent homes a year;
- including at least 100,000 council homes funded by £10bn grant annually;
- and end Right to Buy rather than just suspending it.

The voting on the composite resolution was unanimous. This position is in line with Unite policy and the policy of our branch.

The pandemic has made the need for council house building still more urgent. Even the Tories in the Local Government Association have called for a revival of council house building a crucial part of recovery from coronavirus.

We note with concern that the new Labour party leadership has moved away from this position with unrealistic talk of "fixing the housing crisis" by enabling young people to buy a home.

Website www.housingworkers.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/181528368580712

Twitter @unitehousing



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We support the call of the Labour Council Housing Campaign for trades unions and tenant organisations to lobby the leadership to fight for a mass programme of council house building and commit to publicly campaign ourselves and to raise within Unite.