

TIME TO DEFEND COUNCIL HOUSING IN HACKNEY



Hackney Council's plans to hive off all remaining council homes in the borough are gathering momentum. Some tenants have already received notifications with their rent statements stating that 60 per cent of us have opted for ALMO.

But how many of us were given less than 24 hours notice of local consultation meetings? Why were so many tenants living in street properties left out of the loop? Why were three forms of privatisation – PFI, stock transfer, ALMO – on offer, when more than 200 councils are refusing to go down any of these routes? Was this exercise really good enough to force through changes that will profoundly affect our homes, our families and the future of council housing in Hackney?

We don't want Hackney to end up like Leeds, where the Council imposed an ALMO and appointed six new Executive Directors and 18 managers to run it, putting an extra £1,000,000 on the wage bill. Despite spending £350,000 on a new corporate image, the ALMO failed its housing inspection. They were therefore unable to raise necessary funding for promised repairs, and are planning to bulldoze homes instead.

They are also threatening their workforce with reduced terms and conditions.

According to Phil Hope, Junior Housing Minister in the Office of the Deputy Minister (ODPM)

“Ministers would certainly support a ballot of tenants to test the support for the ALMO...when considering application for funds we expect to see clear support from tenants for the ALMO”

Since 1998 Defend Council Housing has successfully campaigned against all forms of Council home privatisation. In Birmingham, and many other towns and cities, tenants have voted decisively against stock transfer. More than 128 MPs are currently supporting the DCH early day motion demanding direct investment in council housing. In Islington and Camden tenants and local authority workers have joined forces to campaign for a “no” vote to ALMO.

If you care about the future of council housing in Hackney – and want to ensure that Hackney tenants have real choice – please come to this initial meeting to explore how best we can work together.

Saturday 8th November
Marcon Community Hall

3pm

(corner of Amhurst Road and Marcon Place, London E8)

Speaker: Paul Burnham from Haringey Defend Council Housing

**Hackney Council's privatisation agenda and schedule
ALMO – two-tier privatisation?**

**Experience of council house privatisation in Hackney so far
Campaigning for tenants' choice and direct investment in council housing
Getting ourselves organised**

All very welcome – refreshments provided