

Model resolution for CLPs/Union branches

Labour should commit to ending Right to Buy



This CLP/union branch/region recognises that one of the main causes of the housing crisis has been the loss of council homes as a result of the Right to Buy policy introduced by Margaret Thatcher in her 1980 Housing Act. That's why in England there are less than 1.6 million council homes left. Many homes sold under RTB end up in the private rented sector; an estimated 40%. This drives up the housing benefit bill because of the much higher private rents.

Each sale is not just one less home available for those on the waiting list, but lost rent income, which means that councils have less resources for maintaining and renewing their existing stock.

With more than 10,000 homes a year sold, and at least 2,000 demolished, councils have to build more than 12,000 council homes just to halt the loss. This is a number which has not been built since 1990.

In Scotland and Wales the policy has already been ended. The 2019 and 2021 Labour conferences overwhelmingly passed resolutions which called for the ending of RTB. It was incorporated into the 2019 manifesto. At the 2021 conference Lucy Powell said that it is the right thing to do and that is what the members want.

Ending RTB is cost-free and will stop the loss of rental income to councils. It would mean that for the first time since it was introduced all new build would increase the number of available homes and enable the waiting lists to begin to fall.

We therefore support the statement (see overleaf) of the **Labour Campaign for Council Housing** which calls for Labour to commit to ending RTB when in government.

(For CLPs: We agree to write to the Party leadership calling for them to make this commitment.)

(For union branches/regions: We agree to write to the national union asking it to support the statement.)

If your CLP/union branch passes this resolution please inform us by email at labourcouncilhousingcampaign@gmail.org

Visit our website at <http://thelabourcampaignforcouncilhousing.org>

Labour should commit to ending Right to Buy

We the undersigned agree with Lisa Nandy that “the idea of a home for life handed on in common ownership to future generations is an idea worth fighting for.” That requires the ending of the disastrous Right to Buy policy. In Scotland and Wales it has already been ended.

In England there are now less than 1.6 million council homes left. Even if councils were able to keep all receipts for sales they would have to build more than 12,000 council homes a year just to replace homes sold and demolished. That many haven’t been built since 1990.

RTB not only means the loss of homes but councils losing rental stream, leaving them with less money for the maintenance and renewal of their existing stock.

Many homes sold under RTB end up in the private rented sector; an estimated 40%. This drives up the housing benefit bill because of the much higher private rents.

Labour conferences in 2019 and 2021 voted overwhelmingly for RTB to be ended. It was incorporated in the 2019 manifesto. At the 2021 conference Lucy Powell said that it is the right thing to do and that is what the members want.

Ending RTB will stop the loss of homes and ensure that for the first time since it was introduced all new council house building will increase the stock and enable the waiting lists to begin to fall. It is also without cost and will stop the loss of rental income to councils.

We therefore call on Labour to commit to ending RTB when in government.”

To sign the statement email labourcouncilhousingcampaign@gmail.com