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Sent: 10 December 2016 18:28
To: Your Views
Subject: Housing

A response to the consultation on A CITY FOR ALL LONDONERS on behalf of The Greenwich Borough Wide Panel/Neighbourhood Panels and Tenants Associations who all gave a view and decided it best to send only one e.mail although - there good have been many many more- in the hope that one at least will be read in full.

There is at the moment no such thing as affordable housing. The very reference to it should be abolished.

Why flats and houses aren't being built to house those workers that are so necessary for the welfare of Londoners ie carers as one example, is a mystery to the lay person who can see the problem now late 2016.

People do not need these flats and houses with built in kitchens and expensive looking bathrooms. Good quality bare minimum dwellings as in the olden days should be provided for people who almost certainly will be pleased to just have somewhere to live.

Why don't the Councils buy the affordable housing from the developers if they are so affordable? Part buy/part rent has a very bad reputation and people advise against getting involved. (Could be elaborated upon if needed).

The demolition of many Estates here in Greenwich is nothing but a social cleansing operation. Some Estates could have been refurbished.

The Council allows the developers to erect the flats and houses without a thought to the schools, the transport, the hospital (singular as there is only one hospital in Greenwich) the surgeries, social services. Could go on! It has already been forecast that Crossrail will still not be the answer to the overcrowding already happening now on the trains/DLR and buses in the Borough.

The London Plan should incorporate the need for social housing, the possibility of bringing in a rent cap, only selling to people who are actually either going to live/let them. Property can only be bought if you have lived and paid tax in the country for at least 5 years - as they do in other countries.

The big builders should not be allowed to bully councils. It is time to stand up to them and say no we want 50% of properties to be for rent that people can afford. If they don't build them so what. It can't be worse that it is now with HMO rife.

If Planning Applications aren't executed within a year of being passed they should be cancelled.

As tenants of Social Housing we have little or no idea how to object to Planning Applications or give our views on things like the London Plan. The Mayor's office and the Councils make little effort to train people on how to carry these things out. The Skills shortage should be addressed and lessons such as brick laying, electrics, plumbing to name but a few should be part of the School Curriculum.

This missive is very simple and probably not what it wanted but: it is the best I can do as a tenant of Social Housing who has never been encouraged by the "powers that be" to question how the Mayor really intends to bring down the price of housing, bring the waiting lists for houses down when the

percentage of "affordable housing" has never reached the intended targets because there is no evidence that I can see that proves anyone in Government, in the Mayors Office or in Councils seem to care about the working class.

Finally: the Mayor should commit to the full engagement of London's voluntary and community sector groups (including tenants' organisations) that have a focus on housing policy, in developing and monitoring housing strategy. This should be supported by the Mayor's office to fund the establishment of a voluntary and community sector housing forum to relate directly to the Mayors office, and for the forum to have SIX representatives on the Mayor's Homes for Londoners Board.

It is after all on the "ground" the tenants in Social Housing see the problems happening years and years before the likes of Dame Louise Casey CB write a report which has probably cost millions about something that we have been aware has been happening for over a decade. No one listened to us at any of the Council Meetings we attended..

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