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LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR



Andrew Dismore AM

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
By Email

Dear Sadiq,

Date: 09 April 2019

Re: Barnet Council and Social rent

I am writing in relation to Barnet Council's scheme to charge an extra £100 a week on rents for new build council homes and re-let council homes being transferred to Open Door Homes (ODH) - the Council's housing development company. The plan will mean council tenants in new and re-let homes controlled by ODH will have to pay £209 a week for a 2-bedroom home compared with £109 a week currently charged for a council home.

The Barnet Labour Councillors on the Housing Committee sought to amend this rent policy charging 65% of market rates for new council homes in Barnet's draft Housing Strategy, but were unsuccessful. Barnet Labour's proposal would have meant council rents would not exceed 50% of market rates, which is in line with your affordable rent policy.

This high 65% social rent is the main reason Barnet Council were not able to secure more grant from the GLA, on the basis that you would not invest in building new social rent homes that are not affordable to those on low incomes.

I therefore hope that you will take note of this when negotiating with the Council for housing grants, and when considering planning applications.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore AM

Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden

CC. Tom Copley AM, Labour Group spokesperson on housing
CC. Jules Pipe Deputy Mayor for London for Planning and Regeneration
CC. James Murray Deputy Mayor of London for Housing