



Letter to The MJ - April 2010

Having campaigned for many years for a fairer housing finance system and the chance for councils to build new homes, APSE welcomes housing minister John Healey's announcement that the HRA system could be dismantled and up to ten thousand new council houses built each year (MJ page 2 8th April).

There is a growing body of evidence testifying to the benefits of councils owning, managing and building properties and council housing at its best has a crucial place at the heart of vibrant local communities and economies. A recent Public Accounts Committee report found that councils were achieving good value in meeting Decent Homes standards. Our recent research with the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) shows how council housing can help meet a vast range of local government objectives in addition to providing affordable homes.

A fairer finance system would give council housing the opportunity to fulfil its undoubted social, environmental and economic potential.

We hope that, whoever is in power, the next Parliament will see a revival of council housing. With more and more people priced out of the housing market, APSE would like to see council housing become a quality affordable option for all, not a safety net for some.

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