

Local authority Pledge on Community Led Housing

The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network has set up a [Housing Commission](#) set up to look at how local authorities can support co-operative and community-led solutions to the housing crisis. The housing market and policy are failing to meet needs of communities. Councils and housing association have fewer resources to build more homes. We think it is time to harness the energy, commitment and resources of communities.

Community-led housing (CLH) is housing that is shaped and controlled by a group that represents the wider community that will be served by the housing. CLH can be of various types and tenures according to local needs. It can help to boost housing supply, return empty homes to use, safeguard existing social housing and deliver new affordable social housing.

We want to encourage and enable as many local authorities as possible to develop or support CLH. We will be launching a report, toolkit and case studies in autumn 2017. To contribute to this end, we have developed a pledge for local authorities to commit to the development of CLH.

Why not develop a pledge to suit your local circumstances along the lines suggested below and join us to help to build a campaign and encourage others to follow your lead?

Leeds City Council commits to undertake the following

1. Write and implement a Community Led Housing (CLH) policy ensuring CLH becomes a part of our strategic housing approach.

The City Council undertakes to:

- Develop practical responses to help support and encourage CLH including providing support and guidance for the identification of appropriate sites and work with landowners.
- Work with CLH schemes and providers to identify opportunities to contribute to Affordable Housing delivery within their area.
- Identification of champions:
 - i. Cllr Richard Lewis, Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning
 - ii. The support of the Council's Housing Growth Team through Sarah May
- Share our knowledge and expertise with other local authorities who are interested in supporting/developing CLH

2. Examples of measures Leeds has taken to date include:

- The Council has provided officer time for enabling CLH groups to access external funding or help in kind
- Opportunities for direct funding through the Council's grant programme
- Making local authority owned land available for this use which is directly supporting delivery

3. The Council continues to work with CLH groups including:

- Allowing an exclusivity period on a large site to work up a project with a view to land purchase to facilitate development;
- Commissioned a community based organisation to develop community infrastructure particularly in relation to aligning self-build to training and skills opportunities through local providers;
- Adopting a flexible approach to Affordable Housing policy and working with organisations to develop a product which is planning policy compliant.