



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

HOUSING



Liverpool City Council

Community Led Housing in Liverpool

In January 2023, Liverpool City Council adopted a new Community Led Housing Policy, which aims to unlock vacant land and properties for community groups to convert into new homes.

The proposed policy echoes the ambition of the city’s Victorian and Edwardian ancestors who created the first social housing scheme in Europe and the UK’s first community led housing group. It also draws on learning from the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network’s previous community-led housing commission.

A key focus of Liverpool’s new policy is to stimulate new affordable housing in areas blighted by empty or derelict properties and to empower community organisations to deliver the design and build of more local homes. Whether it’s an old school, the site of a long-forgotten baths or vacant, abandoned houses – community groups will have the opportunity to transform this brownfield land into the social housing our city so desperately needs.

The Council has worked closely with local community groups to devise the policy, the application process and selection of initial sites, and will continue this collaborative approach as the programme enters into its delivery phase. Whilst the due diligence process will be rigorous - with an emphasis on financial deliverability – the community sector will have support. Local groups are already forming land trusts and co-ops and will be working

with trained community led housing advisors – alongside council officers and partners at the combined authority - to assist in realising their ambitions.

At its heart, the new policy shows the council’s commitment to community wealth building and sits alongside its new Community Asset Transfer Policy. Both policies encourage council officers to balance financial benefits alongside social value – considering how communities might benefit from the use of council assets and supported to be stewards of them, delivering services that make Liverpool’s neighbourhoods better places to live.

For further information contact:

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