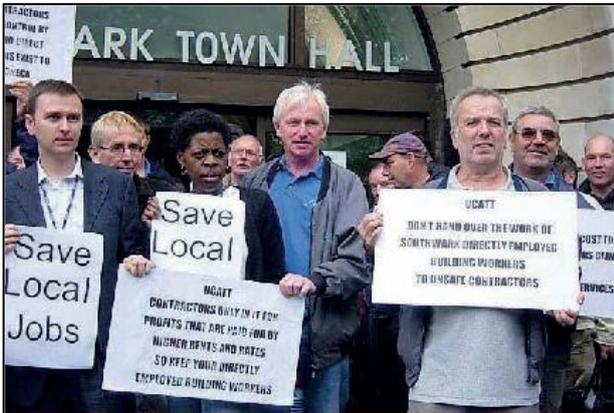


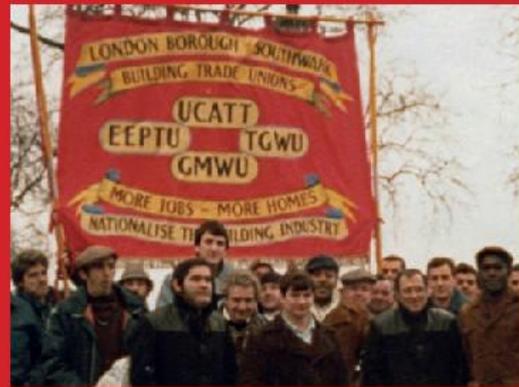
# THE CASE FOR COUNCIL HOUSING & DIRECTLY EMPLOYED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS



Tackling the housing crisis by Tony O'Brien

## Tackling the housing crisis

With publicly owned construction Direct Labour Organisations



Pictured above are Southwark Building Direct Labour workers who stopped work and with supporters protested at Southwark Town Hall in 2006.

They were opposing the privatisation threat to the (then) 60 per cent share of building, repairs and maintenance work carried out by Southwark council's Direct Labour Organisation. **The council then abandoned the threat.**

Southwark council is now planning to bring all its building, repairs and maintenance work back in house to its DLO in 2018.

Price £10

by Tony O'Brien

Book priced £10 plus £2 postage or £8 each plus postage for over five copies. Payments made to: "Tony O' Brien". For enquires phone 07500169151.

1. Completing the form and address it together with a cheque to: 'Tony O' Brien' C/O, Southwark Pensioners Centre, 307 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, London SE5 0HQ
2. Complete the form & send to: ttonyobrienn@hotmail.co.uk. Then send amount by transfer to HSBC bank account number: 71224867 Sort code: 400525

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**TONY O' BRIEN**

## **Tackling the housing crisis**

### **THE CASE FOR COUNCIL HOUSING & DIRECTLY EMPLOYED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

This book shows how local authority directly employed workers and the creation of a national public-sector construction organisation can be the answer to our corrupt system of control by the building companies and property speculators. The book argues that housing is a human right and the system for building housing has failed us. Councils must be allowed to put to work the hundreds of thousands of exploited and unemployed construction workers, have large-scale quality apprentice training, far better safety standards and good conditions of work. The book looks back on the history of Direct Labour Organisations and how they hugely contributed to local authority social housing that governments have been intent on destroying.

The price of housing has been driven up by governments allowing the private sector to not deliver adequate supply of truly affordable housing and starving local authorities from providing new social housing and maintaining its existing housing stock.

This has created monopoly control of housing by the building companies, property speculators and landlords who have used this to create vast fortunes for themselves. **Recent examples of this are:**

#### **Persimmon – Manager Bonus Millions**

The chief executive of the housebuilding firm Persimmon received a £110m bonus, while 150 most senior staff, were between them, given more than £500m in bonuses. This unearned wealth reported in December 2017 came as the company benefited from the taxpayer-backed help-to-buy scheme.

#### **Carillon Collapse**

The government was aware of the Carillon failures, yet it continued to pump money into it to enrich its directors and shareholders. The government must be made to pay the wages, pensions and all other entitlements of the construction workers and others who have been made destitute. Carillon was a disgrace. They have been found guilty in the courts for blacklisting construction workers and having unsafe construction sites. We demand:

Any other major failing construction organization should be taken over to become part of a new national public-sector construction organization. Governments should transfer all public contracts into this public-sector company. That's about 40% of all construction activity. Use this public-sector organization to build masses of new infrastructure. Expand local Building Direct Labour Organizations (DLOs) to build and maintain low rental social homes. End the housing crisis.

#### **The ongoing Private Finance Initiative scandal**

In 2017 the National Audit Office (NAO) found that in over 700 existing public-private projects, as building schools, costs can be 40 per cent higher than using public money. The auditors also disclosed that taxpayers will be forced to pay nearly £200 billion to contractors for at least 25 years on projects with a capital value of just £60bn.

#### **We can do much better with having Construction Direct Labour**

DLOs were originally set up to overcome problems created by system of corrupt contracting. Successful DLOs call into question the necessity of a housing contracting system with its anti-competitive contract rigging, price fixing, unsafe work practices and the victimisation and blacklisting of trade unionists.

**The book argues that we all would be much better off if we were to deny them these obscene profits by having public sector construction direct labour organizations**