

# KEEP CONTROL OF YOUR HOMES

Letter from Cllr Maria Kay, Cabinet Member for Better Homes & Reducing Homelessness



Dear Resident,

Since I last wrote to you in August, alongside campaigners and your ward Councillors Paul Gadsby and Annie Gallop, I have been door knocking and speaking to residents about proposals from a **private, profit-driven company to take over control of your council homes** in the Lothian Estate area. I'm grateful to everyone who took the time to speak with us about this important issue.

It is clear many of you are also concerned and upset about the plans. **I make no secret that I am opposed to Visions Homes' plans, too.** Vision Homes' proposals will leave tenants and leaseholders in and around the **Lothian Estate worse off.**

You and your families are being asked to transfer the ownership of your home to a profit-driven company with no registered employees and **no track record** in owning, developing, or even managing social housing. If this stock transfer went ahead, it would be the first of its kind in the UK.

**The proposals from Vision Homes could mean you pay more: from your rents and service charges to the repairs and maintenance activities to your homes, as Vision Homes would charge VAT on top of these costs. If Vision Homes were to also sell your homes to another company in the future, they will not be required to ballot or obtain consent from the Housing Regulator.**

It is unclear to me how they will fund the promises they are making to you and your neighbours. **Vision Homes' plans don't add up, and they do not make financial sense.**

## Get in touch about your household repairs

In my role at Lambeth Council, I am responsible for improving council homes and estates across the borough. We are determined to improve the condition of all our homes, to ensure families are in warm, safe homes that are at the good standard that you expect. If you do have any outstanding repairs issues, please do get in touch with me so that I can raise these issues with the team.

Me and my team are committed to improving the repairs service we deliver to you and making sure repairs are done on time and done well.

In the meantime, we will continue to speak to residents to better understand your concerns and how Lambeth can work to resolve those issues. The future ownership of your home is an important decision that you and your neighbours will have to make and I hope every tenant uses the power of their vote in the upcoming ballot.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Kay', written over a circular stamp or seal.

**Cllr Maria Kay**

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with me at: [mkay@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:mkay@lambeth.gov.uk) or our Repairs Team on 07926 697251 with your name, full address and details about the issue.