

**Our Ref: Cllr PJ/H5506
19 September, 2014**



**Councillor Peter John
Leader of the Council**
Labour Member
for South Camberwell Ward

Community Engagement
Southwark Council
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Dear resident,

**Delivering our promise to build 11,000 new council homes:
An open letter from Councillor Peter John, Leader of Southwark Council.**

In July 2013 this council made a historic commitment to build 11,000 new council homes by 2043. This followed an extensive programme of consultation with Southwark residents where the overwhelming view was that we needed to build more.

We also set up what we called a Futures Steering Board that had on it representatives of local tenants and leaseholders. I am delighted to see that this has been a very positive partnership and we intend to build on that and continue to involve them but we also intend to hear the voices of as many of our residents as we can. Everyone should be able to have their voice heard.

Council officers have now started to consult residents again as we gear up to deliver our promise. This goes much further than building 11,000 new council homes. We want to make sure that every council tenant enjoys a high quality home that is warm, dry and safe with a modern kitchen and bathroom. We also, through our regeneration programmes, want to deliver new homes whether they are council, housing association or private for hard working families on all income levels.

To be absolutely clear, the 11,000 new homes that we promise to deliver will be new homes additional to our existing stock. These will be council homes on council rents for those that need them. It has been said that what we are intending to do is demolish 11,000 existing council homes and replace them to reach our target of 11,000. This is just not true. These are new homes and do not include the existing stock of council housing.

I am clear that we want to genuinely involve our residents in having a say on how and where we deliver these 11,000 new homes. The consultation that council officers are now doing is only the start. We are asking you to comment on how we will involve you throughout the programme of developing new housing. Once we have heard what you have to say on that we will move on to talking in more detail about how we can work with

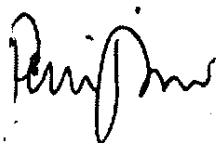
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you to deliver our promise on what we deliver and where. Our overarching commitment is to keep residents involved right across the borough and working with you all to make sure we design the best possible solutions to deliver good quality homes for those that need them.

We also want to encourage residents to talk to us about how you want to be involved in how our council housing is managed. In our earlier consultation residents told us they wanted this. My promise to you is that we will only do this where we are clear that the majority of residents on a particular estate or neighbourhood want it.

Rest assured our commitment is real and we want to work with you, our residents and our other partners, to make sure it happens. We welcome your comments so please tell us what you think by taking part in the consultation we are doing now and the consultations we will continue to do as we forge ahead with delivery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter John', written in a cursive style.

**COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**