

"As important as it is to look at external factors that apply pressure on housing, solving the housing crisis that we have currently also requires action on the underlying factors underpinning rent and price inflation.

To solve these issues long term, we have to be able to build more council housing and build and acquire more genuinely affordable housing, and without more funding from central government, our council and many others struggle hugely to do so. Small district councils are in a uniquely disadvantaged position; we are often prone to significant and fast changes in the rental market, and underfunded in terms of investment to provide services that would genuinely counteract deprivation, such as affordable housing.

We need central government to acknowledge that our area needs greater funding to deliver council housing and genuinely affordable housing; I have personally written to Ministers to make it clear that we have a huge level of need that has to be addressed; I hope very much that they begin to acknowledge and address this, as this was first raised formally with the government when I was Acting Leader in May, but as yet there has been no response. We need to solve this issue at its very foundations; and I would like to ask the Leader if she will continue to apply pressure to central government to provide us with the funding we so desperately need."