

Question: PQ05.01

Cabinet – 3rd February 2021

Re: Agenda item 5 – Housing Revenue Account Budget Proposals

Questions submitted by: Ollie Fortune

1. In the agenda item report an objective of "fair and inclusive" housing is mentioned. Do you believe it is fair that at least 13,000 households are waiting to be housed, these are only the ones who have come forward for support, by Bristol City Council?
 - **No. I do not believe it is fair that anyone in Bristol is in need of a home and that's why we've made delivering homes in balanced communities our number one priority.**
2. Central government has proven that money can be generated and is available during a crisis to solve a problem if the will and or need exists. So I ask you very simply: why aren't you demanding that central government allows Bristol city council to borrow as much as necessary to build council homes to house the 13,000 plus households on the waiting list rather than justifying using £11.3 million in reserves as mentioned in this report?
 - **Working with Thangam Debbonaire MP we are lobbying government to give us the powers and finance. But ultimately what we need is a Labour government that will work with city leaders to build council houses, protect private renters and ensure affordable homes and mixed communities.**
 - **We had further discussion of some of these points at the meeting and I am happy to pick them up in further correspondence through my office and I know that other Cabinet Members were keen to continue the discussion too. The format and procedures of formal cabinet meetings can be inflexible, but we appreciate your contributions.**