



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins & Cllr Brownridge  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Council  
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23 April 2018

Dear Dr Wilkins & Cllr Brownridge

Thank you for taking the time to make me aware of Oldham Council Resolutions passed at your meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March and for those passed at previous meetings.

On housing strategy, I agree with you that a housing policy based on increased numbers alone that does not look at actual affordability and social housing supply is of great concern. You may be aware that Labour recently published *Housing for the Many*, a Green Paper on housing which focuses on social housing. What new homes we build, and who they're for, matter as much as how many. Simply building more market price homes isn't enough to help many of those faced with the cost of housing crisis because this is only likely to influence prices over the long-term.

The very term 'affordable' has been so misused by Ministers that it's now widely mistrusted by the public, so the Green-Paper will establish a new legal definition of an 'affordable home', linked to local incomes not to market prices that means people have enough money left after housing costs to save for a deposit or pay for the other things they need.

On the suffrage, citizenship and services motion, I agree with the Council that the Government's plans for future funding of refugees encompassed within their proposals for funding supported housing, are extremely concerning. I have met with Women's Aid on a number of occasions about this specific issue. You may be aware that the Government has now announced a review of domestic abuse services. To that end, according to Ministers, by November 2018, there will be a review funding of refuge provision in England, with a particular focus on the funding of care and support for victims. I will keep a close eye on the progress of the review and continue to do what I can to ensure our vital refuge services are properly supported and funded.

Yours sincerely

DEBBIE ABRAHAMS MP  
Oldham East and Saddleworth

Debbie Abrahams MP is proud to represent the people of  
Alexandra, Lees, Saddleworth, Shaw & Crompton, St Mary's, St James' and Waterhead

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