

Boosting training at Holmes Road and Euston

The Council is only now beginning to acknowledge the scale and intensity of the repair crisis. But it is more than just about repairs as requested by tenants on an individual basis. It is also about cyclical maintenance, dilapidations, retrofit and the skills crisis. And worryingly, until we have the full results of the latest stock condition survey we cannot measure its depth and extent.

Our first priorities, therefore, are: -

1. An estimate of the extent and rate of acceleration of the dilapidation of the stock
2. A labour force plan related to the condition of the stock and its physical decline which is transforming the Council into a very large slum landlord, more reminiscent of the nineteenth than the twenty-first century
3. An in-house training programme planned with and managed by elected members, the trade unions, local FE colleges and the new Euston Skills Centre - based both at Euston and Holmes Road.

What role can the Scrutiny Committee play? We need a tough, wide-ranging scrutiny panel to investigate the repairs situation drawing in all parties with a stake in the problem. This will include workforce and the unions, all relevant training bodies, research and academic interests, tenants' organisations and individuals including leaseholders.

We also look forward to establishing an ongoing dialogue with the members of the Committee which needs to start as soon as possible.

John Mason

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