



## **Grainger and the Selling of Social Housing**

I have recently discovered the galloping inroads being made by the private contractor Grainger in the new and expanding build to rent 'market'.

They seem able to bypass local authorities. For instance, in Sheffield, which they see as a 'key target city', they have just bought a tract of land from the city council for thirty two million.

In these schemes returns are sought for investors and provided for shareholders. Grainger are not providing social homes. They talk of flexible tenancies but there is no comfort zone for times of unemployment and hardship. Unlike investors, the community needs 'in house' local authority council house building precisely because it responds to personal circumstances. Housing application should be needs based not at the mercy of the bidding system we've had for twenty years.

To protect recognisable features of viable communities and where possible lay the foundations for future industrial revival, lifelong tenancies should return with hand over policies for another generation of families.

Like the banks and their Tory supporters Grainger Homes want control but are daggers against *any* form of public involvement. It is the vested interest of banks to control every facet of the over valued housing market. For those wanting a roof over their head, impossible benchmarks are being set.

Crucially, in today's charged climate, it is viable working talking communities which are sacrificed.

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<http://www.hl.co.uk/shares/stock-market-news/company--news/archive/granger-to-forward-fund-and-acquire-a-build-to-rent-scheme-in-sheffield>

## **Neither Borrower nor Lender! Time for a Two Tiered Economy!**

For the past thirty years there has been a train of thought that the majority of humans would, through endeavour, attain a mythical style of life appropriate to their needs, the so called modern 'work ethic'. However, as populations increase and long term industrial employment has declined, social mobility has slowed.

On the back of Thatcher's 'right to buy', large swathes of the population have entered the false arena of property profit borrowing, a 'mobility' engineered by finance corporations. As a result, those that do not borrow on the back of false property inflation are caught in a vacuum, locked into the world of unsecured debt which has now reached dangerous levels.

With credit beginning to 'run out' corporations are still lending on the back of inflated, unrealistic property prices. Borrowers who own property are falsely empowered, enjoying a sense of financial wellbeing over which in reality they have no control.

What has been created is a two-tier class system; those who own property and those who do not. Here in the UK we are approaching the American sub prime lending model.

As a matter of urgency we must break from the creeping power of the middle classes and the top university halls that, geared for dominance and control of the most vulnerable, favour corporate interests.

In housing and social welfare generally corporate control is near established. Where it concerns everyday matters affecting the poorest people from zero hours contracts to the use of housing as a form of social engineering, there are no champions speaking out.

An overlooked but vital element in creating a more equal society is the deflation of property prices.

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