



## 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 todays 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/grainger-to-forward-fund-and-acquire-a-build-to-rent-scheme-in-sheffield>