

Evening News 7/2/73

# Manchester 'may take er from landlords'

By BRIAN WELCH

A HINT that Manchester should buy privately rented houses to carry out general improvement programme was given to the city council by the housing committee chairman, Councillor Joe De

The London Labour Party has already announced it plans to do this if it wins control of the Greater London Council at the next election and Councillor Dean said this was something Manchester might want to do.

"Otherwise I don't believe the general improvement of older privately rented houses will ever get done," he said.

"Blitz" methods would have to be used for the job to be done effectively, and a central co-ordinating organisation would have to be set up.

Councillor Dean was replying to a Conservative motion criticising the slow progress with pilot schemes for housing improvement areas.

Some time ago the corporation selected two areas for pilot schemes — Brailsford Road, Fallowfield, (209 houses) and Leicester Road, Cheetham (283). Residents and landlords were invited to apply for grants and the corporation undertook to make environmental improvements.

## "UP THE GARDEN"

At the city council meeting the Tories claimed the tenants had been "led up the garden path." They had met with nothing but frustration and had not received the corporation co-operation they had been led to expect.

Ald Ken Collis (Lab) pointed out that at Brailsford Road only 19 applications for a grant had been received, and 74 at Leicester Road.

A Labour amendment to the Conservative notice of motion recording total opposition to the use of improvement grants as a means of avoiding necessary slum clearance was carried by 52 votes to 21.

## RATES WARNING

HIGHER pay and pensions for Manchester Corporation workers could alone produce a rates rise of 20p in the pound on current valuations, finance committee chairman Alderman Norman Morris warned the council.

A total of £10m was needed for higher wages and pensions, although there would be some Government grants towards this.

Referring to this week's deputation to Mr Heath by five cities — including Man-

GUARDIAN  
IN 8/2/73

## Slum clearance plan challenged

FOR THE FIRST TIME since Manchester started slum clearance 20 years ago, there was a major challenge in the city council yesterday over corporation proposals for clearance areas and a demand for more housing improvements instead.

However, the Labour group which administers the city refused to switch to a policy of using improvement grants as a means of avoiding necessary slum clearance.

There was a rowdy debate lasting nearly three hours between the supporters of demolition and those wanting improvement schemes in seven areas in the city's southern suburbs.

Leading the attack on the demolitionists a Conservative member, Mrs Joyce Hill, spoke in particular for the preservation of 226 houses in

the Crossway area of Didsbury.

Labour speakers insisted, however, that these were unfit houses, and one member used the word slums. Alderman Dr Joe Taylor, the chairman of the health committee, said that he could understand that the people concerned were upset but slum clearance had been going on in the city for 20 years.

The proposal that Crossway should be made a general improvement area instead of a clearance area was rejected by 28 votes to 68. All the other proposals for clearance areas were similarly approved.

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