# Labour councillor criticised for entering raffle to win former council home sold under his watch



A Labour councillor in Southwark, once complicit in the controversial sale of council housing in a multi-million-pound deal, has now shocked voters by entering a prize draw to win back the very same property nearly a decade later. This exposes the hypocrisy and failure of the current Labour administration in their handling of social housing, exemplified by the Georgian four-bedroom home near Borough Market at 21 Park Street.

Richard Livingstone, the Labour member for Old Kent Road, admitted to buying a raffle ticket for the chance to claim ownership of the house that was sold off in 2013 under his watch. At the time, Southwark Council controversially offloaded this property and the neighboring number 23 to a property developer for £2.96 million—despite fierce opposition from housing campaigners who even resorted to squatting in protest. This short-sighted sale was justified by Livingstone as a way to fund the creation of about 20 new council homes, but critics rightly condemned it as the reckless disposal of valuable social housing assets.

Victor Chamberlain, leader of the Southwark Liberal Democrats and councillor for Borough and Bankside, rightly lambasted Livingstone’s latest stunt: "It's a grotesque irony that the Labour councillor who sold off vital council homes is now gambling on winning one, while thousands languish on waiting lists." Chamberlain highlighted that with 19,000 households trapped on Southwark’s housing waiting list and zero new council homes built last year, Labour’s neglect is pushing local families into despair. For many, their chances of securing a council home are more remote than winning this ill-conceived lottery.

This scandal underscores the failure of Labour’s housing policy—a managed decline that shreds social housing to prop up short-term political narratives. Just months ago, Labour sold yet another council house on the same street, continuing to erode the borough’s housing stock. This is not leadership; it’s a cynical erosion of working-class communities under the guise of progress.

Unsurprisingly, Chamberlain has also entered the raffle, underscoring the farce of relying on luck rather than sound policy to solve a chronic housing crisis.

The property’s value has skyrocketed since the 2013 sale, now estimated at over £4.5 million according to Omaze, the company running the prize draw. Londoners should ask themselves why a home of such value was sacrificed in the first place, and why the current administration still clings to such failed approaches to council housing.

Requests to Livingstone for comment went unanswered, reflecting a disturbing lack of accountability.

This episode highlights the urgent need for political alternatives that prioritize real housing solutions over illusions. A party that champions genuine reform, sovereignty in decision-making, and the protection of working families’ interests would reject such reckless sales and the cynical gambles that follow. It is clear that Southwark—and indeed the country—deserves better than Labour’s hollow promises and managed decline in social housing provision.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/squatters-occupy-britain-s-most-expensive-council-house-on-day-it-sells-for-ps2-96m-8911319.html> - This article corroborates the 2013 sale of Southwark's most expensive council house for £2.96 million and the subsequent squatting by protesters. It highlights the controversy surrounding the sale.
2. <https://www.londoncentric.media/p/omaze-london-house-borough-market-park-street-council-house> - This article supports the claim that the property was once a council house and is now being given away by Omaze, with a value estimated at over £4.5 million.
3. <https://www.paminsight.com/twn/article/uks-most-expensive-council-house-sells-for-nearly-%C2%A33m> - This article provides additional context about the valuation and sale of the property, noting it was valued by Southwark Council at £2.3 million before the auction.
4. <https://www.southwark.gov.uk> - While not directly linked to a specific article, Southwark Council's official website can provide general information about their housing policies and strategies, supporting broader claims about council housing management.
5. <https://www.housing.org.uk> - This is not specific to the article but provides general context on UK housing policy and challenges, which can be related to the discussion on council housing and waiting lists.
6. <https://www.libdems.org.uk> - This is the official Liberal Democrats website, where statements and positions on housing, potentially including those by Victor Chamberlain, can be found.
7. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/london-councillor-who-oversaw-sale-31502943> - Please view link - unable to able to access data