Hackney Housing Crisis

The recognised number of homeless in 1972 xxxxxxxxxx: 43% of thse In hackney this yea the council paid out over £ 105,000 in months on putting people in bed and breakfast. and each month its going up Its going beyond the point of containment.
Thats one side of it. Another is hackney council implementing the The Fiar Rents Act and putting rents up 50p. (What else did anyone expect) a token resitance and then the inevitable climb down.
" We personally cant afford to followthe example of brave little clay crossand even if we defied the government the tenants would have to pay in the end. Anyway its the law of the land."
A third side is war declared against the squatters by the Housing dept Thsi wastimed to coincide wwith the 50p increase and the tory councillors beginning t eir election campaign with propaganda about war heroes being on the waiting list for 30 years. Also barely concealed racial propaganda has been concsistantly put out by the council officls both in the Housing and social services dept that Outsiders" are the cause of the shortage of homes in Hackney.

Hackney housing is a misture of pre-war slum estates, large new council estates, and a vast amount of early 20th century houses - some being tarted up others emptied and rotting on one side of the borough is up and coming raptidly bourgiosfied Islington, the other depopulated Tower Hamlets.(East End) . The previous Tory councilspolicy(i.e. Hakcney was Tory dring the period 67-70, the only time it had a Tory council for many yeras) was to declare Genral Improvement Areas - giving grants to landlords and property spectulators to do up t eir houses: higher profits, higher rents. The present Labour Council's is to declare Redevelopment areas - CPOs all round rehousing the owners and tenants (if they've been there long enough, and boarding up or knocking down streets at the same time. The numbers of homeless and badly housed rose. The Housing dept has decided to build no more tower blocks becuase 'they create social problems' and the councils aim is to lower the population density - ad to do this they push the old population out. ~~This policy which is not just restricted to Hackney~~ ~~can~~ ~~needs of capital~~. On the one hand capital needs workers mainly in the capital intensive industries, which have moved out or are in the proccess of moving out of London (because land is cheaper) to move out to work in thses industries where there isn't always enough labour available, on the other hand it needs a number of workers particularily unskilled to service London. Becuase of a lack of cheap housing the shortage of service labour in London is increasing. Recently there have been recruiting drives in Glasgow and other far of places with offers of hostel accomodation to attract people to come and work for London transport traffic wardens etc. A combination of property speculation ad the Housing finance act has meant that local councils have less money less land and less prperty & - so housing conditions for the working class got worse all the time.(The fact that most of the councils money goes to paying back the interest on loans from the city sharks means that their real budgets become less and less - as interest rates go up becuase of inflation - the crisis in international captalism , investment moving away from the productive sectors into property etc.) This does not mean that the councils and here specifically Hackney council are not agents in the housing crisis but that they are less able to patch up or mediate for capitlaism or disguise their own reactionary function. Hackney council has shown quite clearly that it is not prepared to recognise a state of class war, different groups of people are demontrating down at the town hall almost everyday about their housing conditions, all it trys to do is cover up for its own political lack of creibility "Its not our fault we're not building enough, the tories won't give us the money".