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# Plan to house 1,600 is rejected

THE CHANCE of new homes for 1,600 people in Camden was thrown away by the Council's Labour Group this week. This was claimed after Labour councillors gave Mr Joe Levy's Stock Conversion and Investments Ltd. the go ahead on the Tolmers Square Development, writes HOWARD HANNAH.

This meant rejection of a scheme by the non profit-making Claudius Properties Ltd. which would have provided the extra homes.

The Labour group decision, which was due to be confirmed by the community planning and resources committee on Wednesday night, came after Labour councillors who felt that the Claudius scheme would take too long won by a small majority at a special meeting on Monday.

Doubts were expressed at the two hour meeting as to whether the Department of the Environment would sanction Compulsory Purchase Orders on land in the development area already owned by Stock Conversion.

According to Cllr. Frank Dobson, leader of the council, delays in securing the CPOs necessary to the Claudius scheme could not be justified in view of the shortage of houses in the borough.

So now, as originally planned, Mr Levy's firm will be the council's partners in the development scheme, and the greatest part of the profits from the £37 million office development included in the scheme will go to Stock Conversion. The Claudius scheme would have meant that this profit would have been handed back to the council.

Mr Benny Croy, who with fellow journalist Christopher Booker formed Claudius Properties earlier this year, told the "Journal": "The council are throwing away the chance of homes for 1,600 people, and for no valid reason at all. Our scheme would have meant that the only people to benefit from the development would have been the rate-payers of Camden."

"How can the council, with a housing list of over 10,000, afford to turn down