



# THEY MUST COME DOWN

WESTER HAILES  
**SENTINEL** Exclusive



**It is essential that definite decisions are made about decants and transfer for existing tenants**  
**Cllr Mark Lazarowicz**

**T**HE high-rise flats in Wester Hailes Park and Drive look set for demolition - if councillors agree to a shock report next week.

The report which will be presented to the District Council's housing committee on Tuesday March 10th is calling for:

- The demolition of the eight blocks
- An immediate end to lettings
- No more money to be spent on major investment
- Tenants to be awarded priority for rehousing
- Scottish Office consent for the plan
- The purchase of any sold houses
- The preparation of a detailed report on timescale, tenure, and short term improvements.

Local people involved in the High Rise Development group, set up last month to plan the future of the flats have agreed in principle to the report's recommendations.

It also has the full backing of the council's leader, and local councillor, Mark Lazarowicz.

He said: "This report confirms the view I have held for some time that these blocks must come down."

He went on: "I will now be urging the council to work with local residents to draw up a comprehensive action plan for demolition and rebuilding."

The eight blocks have been the subject of controversy for many years. A recent structural survey showed a

repair package would cost upwards of £25 million.

The cost of demolition and new build low-rise housing would be in the region of £12 million.

The council have said however that they do not have the cash to build new homes on the cleared site, so it is likely that Scottish Homes finance would be needed for any new development.

No timetable has been set for the demolition of the blocks, but if councillors approve the report lettings will cease almost immediately. And plans for rehousing the existing tenants will be drawn up.

## **Councillor backs demolition report for high rise**

**IN THE last few years there have been dramatic changes to Wester Hailes' infamous high-rise flats.**

- Three blocks at Hailesland have been demolished.
- Another three Hailesland blocks have been refurbished at a cost of £6 million.
- The Calder's high-rise have had a multi-million pound facelift.
- And the seven blocks at Westburn are almost empty and should be demolished within a year.