## Support for the Save Brick Lane campaign – trade union branch motion

Passed by Unite London Digital & Tech on 19.11.2026

**This branch notes:**

1. That in July 2026 the Housing Minister signed off on a plan which will have a significant impact on Brick Lane, East London. The proposals, submitted by Truman Estates and Zeloof LLP, affect three sites including the historic Truman Brewery, with five new office buildings, a cinema, supermarket, and market space but only 44 homes of which six will be at available for social rent (1). Alongside this a 5,200 square metres datacentre is proposed which would primarily support 'high frequency trading' in the nearby City of London (2).

2. A recent report (3) by the London Assembly which found the rapid expansion of datacentres, which require huge amounts of energy, was delaying urgently needed housing in the capital as there is not enough capacity on the electricity grid for both.

4. There is long-standing opposition to these plans which fail to serve the interests of the local community. The Save Brick Lane (SBL) campaign is leading this opposition (4).

3. By contrast to the Truman Estates plan the SBL alternative scheme delivers on the Tower Hamlets Local Plan and focuses on social housing, community provision and affordable workspace, offering 345 housing units and public accessibility.

**This branch believes:**

1. That datacentres, and other building for commercial purposes, should not take priority over the needs of people for housing and local services.

2. That the current wave of datacentre building is doing precisely this and in addition is causing unchecked growth in carbon emissions (5).

**This branch resolves:**

1. To support the SBL campaign by:
    a. Making a donation of £100 to its funds
    b. Making branch members aware of the campaign and encouraging them to support it as individuals, for example by signing the petition (6)
    c. Inviting a speaker from SBL to address a branch meeting or other event
    d. Sending representatives to future public meetings or activities

(1) https://www.asianstandard.co.uk/save-brick-lane-campaign-fails-to-stop-office-and-data-centre-plans/
(2) https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/jul/07/london-campaign-planned-ai-datacentre-brick-lane
(3) https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-press-releases/-centres-delay-housing-delivery
(4) https://www.savebricklane.net/
(5) https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-co2-from-uk-data-centres-could-be-hundreds-of-times-higher-than-thought#
(6) https://www.savebricklane.net/actions/petition