

# COMMUNITY DEVASTATION PROJECT



STEP 4



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 2



STEP 5



STEP 8

**Step 1.** Local Authority identifies block of housing that it wants to demolish, some of which is privately owned. Owners of property are offered a low 'market value' sum to sell the house to the Local Authority. Many owners refuse this offer.

**Step 2.** The Local Authority begins to depopulate the block by re-housing its tenants. Empty houses are then boarded up.

**Step 3.** Boarded up houses attract the attention of people who scavenge for copper wiring and piping, which can be sold for good prices due to the world shortage of copper.

**Step 4.** As water supply has most likely not been disconnected, this scavenging of copper results in flooding in the abandoned house. This flooding leads to damp penetrating the walls into the privately owned properties to either side of the abandoned house.

**Step 5.** The boarded up house draws in anti-social behaviour, with the house being used for illegal drug-taking, graffiti, general vandalism and rubbish dumping.

**Step 6.** In some locations, gardens are used for illegal fly-tipping of rubbish, generating rat problems.

**Step 7.** The boarded up houses often become magnets for arson.

**Step 8.** The majority of private owners, no longer able to withstand this 'intimidation by proxy', and suffering intolerable conditions brought on by the scale of deterioration, sell their property to the Local Authority who demolish the entire block. Owners who hold out may be threatened with a Compulsory Purchase Order.