



# Action Charter for the Housing Crisis



The housing crisis is about to get a whole lot worse. Rents keep going up, and people can't afford to rent or buy a decent home. Property developers have an increasing grip over public policy.

Levelling up Secretary Michael Gove wants to 'turbo-boost' council estate demolitions, and he promotes new town development with little or no affordable housing.

Instead of this car crash, housing for the people must come first. We need public investment in homes and communities.

Council housing is the central part of the answer. Everyone who looks at housing from a needs perspective agrees that we need a large scale house building programme to build new council homes, funded by central government development grants. This will pay for itself in rents and reduced benefit costs.

We should publicise and give evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into the need for council housing



investment. There should be £10 billion a year grant to build or purchase 100,000 council homes annually. Right to Buy must be scrapped. There must be funding for fire safety, and for retrofitting to reduce the 15% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK which arise from housing. Let's insulate and not demolish.

Debt cancellation must be part of the package of support for council housing. From 1994 to 2008 councils received

allowances £31 billion less to manage their homes, than tenants paid in rent. The £31 billion difference was more than the outstanding historic debt in 2008. So drop the debt.

There must be proper regulation of housing associations. The planning system must ensure that housing needs are met. We must resist the property developer lobby which wants small, unaffordable homes and which neglects the needs of people with lower incomes, and families with children.

Private renters must have new secure tenancies, and there must be rent control, to ensure affordability, and to ensure that rent rises are not used as a back door route to eviction.

Please support our five point plan. We can send speakers to your branch meeting. Please pass our model motion (overleaf) Let's support all local and national campaigns to prioritise housing needs before the needs of profit.

## Support this five point plan calling for radical policy changes to address the housing crisis.

- 1** Government investment in a mass council housing building programme, including requisitioning of empty homes and abolition of 'right to buy'
- 2** Rent controls and secure tenancies in the private rental sector. Robust regulation of housing associations

- 3** New funding to repair and refurbish existing council housing – do not demolish
- 4** Adequate funding for fire safety, and for retrofitting and thermal insulation
- 5** Planning for the people and the planet, and not for developers' profits

## Contacts



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