

HOUSING

SUMMER SPECIAL

This edition is packed with information - more than a "normal" August issue might be. But then it has been a far from normal year for housing as well as other aspects of life.

LHG's Executive is delighted to welcome **our new Shadow Secretary of State, Lucy Powell** who introduces herself on page 2.

We also have a substantial piece which identifies the obstacles that the **Decent Homes Review** needs urgently to address. Our guest author is Martin Wicks of the Labour Campaign for Council Housing

From Tower Hamlets we have an example of how, even in these difficult circumstances, **Labour Councils can support and advise renters.** (*More examples of Labour Councils doing good work are always welcome.*)

As part of a bigger review of housing policies, Labour Housing Group is looking at the housing section of the **Labour Party's 2019 Manifesto** which contains a wealth of good ideas listed here on pages 8-10 for your reference. The Executive will be consulting members on how to take them forward to meet the new challenges of our era.

Manifestos are hard work and critical to the success of our Party. It may help to have a historical perspective of how the task has been approached and the consequences. For contrast, we sample the **manifestos from 1983 and 1997** which, for those who experienced it, was an often gloomy period dominated by our opponents under Thatcher and Major.

Continuing in this spirit of learning from the past, we reopen Gerald Kaufman's *"How to be a Minister"*, first published in 1997. He was noted for his wit but in this book also gives sound advice to would-be Labour Ministers.

It is a good-humoured read but also thought-provoking on the subject of how Labour Ministers must both cope with the pressure of office and stay true to their beliefs.

Gerald served as a Labour Member of Parliament from 1970 until his death in 2017, first for Manchester Ardwick and then for Manchester Gorton.

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A MESSAGE TO LABOUR HOUSING GROUP SUPPORTERS FROM LUCY POWELL, SHADOW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOUSING

Labour is the Party of safe, secure, affordable homes to rent and buy.

We have a proud record in national and local government, upgrading social homes to make them decent and warm and building new truly affordable homes for local communities.

I'm delighted to have been appointed Shadow Housing Secretary. As I was saying to *Labour Housing Group's* John



Lucy was born in Moss Side, Manchester and has served as MP for Manchester Central since being elected in 2012 when she became Manchester's first female Labour Member of Parliament and the first woman elected from Manchester since 1964.

Cotton and Sheila Spencer recently, it's a huge brief, with lots to do. I'm keen to work with colleagues in the LHG to engage with voters and members on the key challenges and opportunities.

A decade of Conservative government has made the housing emergency worse.

The failure of the government to build social housing has pushed many into the private rented sector which has exploded in size and cost.

Taxpayers now pay billions of pounds in housing benefit to landlords, getting very little in return. Private tenants pay expensive rents, have few rights and are often at the mercy of unscrupulous practices.

The pandemic has brought renters' plight to the forefront. I recently challenged Ministers to bring forward a plan to tackle the Covid rent arrears crisis in Parliament.

The government should make good on their promise that no one should lose their home because of the virus.

We've also argued for **emergency legislation to end Section 21 evictions**, yet government have kicked the *Renters Reform Bill* into the long grass.

We've seen home-ownership plummet while house prices have surged, pricing first time buyers out of the market and creating huge inequality in housing wealth.

The government's stamp duty 'holiday' has pushed up prices whilst making it more expensive for everyone, including first time buyers, to get on or up the ladder.

Fixing the Building Safety scandal is another priority.

I'll work with anyone to get homeowners out of the fix they're in. It's wrong that leaseholders and tenants are being forced to shell out money for faults they didn't cause, all the while living in unsafe, unsellable, homes.

Social landlords have been excluded altogether from the *Building Safety Fund*, using up valuable funds that they would have invested in new council/social housing after being abandoned by government.

As the Building Safety Bill goes through Parliament we'll work to get leaseholders a cast iron guarantee that they won't have to pay for fire-safety works.

We've also called for a Building Works Agency – a crack team of experts and engineers to go block by

block, assessing risk, commissioning and funding works, certifying buildings as safe and flats sellable, then going after those who caused the problem for costs.

For too long the government has had its head in the sand – **we need to see real leadership to challenge vested interests and get the job done.**

There are lots of other issues in the in-tray, too – from future proofing our homes to tackle the climate emergency and create good green jobs, to tackling homelessness, to giving social housing tenants a voice and redress in a system which undervalues them.

My aim is to put Labour at the heart of the debate on the future of housing.

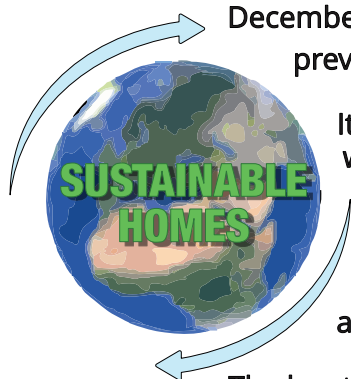
We need a housing system that is safe, affordable, that works for people not simply for profit and brings Keir's leadership pledge that **housing is a human right** to life.

We have a mountain to climb to win the next election, but housing has to be at the heart of Labour's vision as the best country to grow up and grow old in. **I look forward to working with you to achieve this.**

OPENREACH PROMISES MORE CONNECTED HOMES BY 2026

Openreach says it now aims to connect 6.2 million premises with full-fibre broadband by

December 2026, up from the previous target of 3.2m.



It claims that the work will improve around 1,100 exchanges in "market and coastal towns, villages and hamlets spread across the entire UK".

The locations include Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands, Cardigan in Wales, Keswick in Cumbria and Allhallows in Kent.

Openreach's CEO, Clive Selley, said that the project is "second only to HS2 in terms of investment".

The impact of Full Fibre broadband is expected to lead to increased economic prosperity, higher employment and benefits to the environment.

MORTGAGE GUARANTEE SCHEME FLOPS

The mortgage guarantee scheme which came into effect in April is a flop as single buyers in their 30s on the average wages will still be unable to buy a home in about half of local authority areas in England and Wales.

Official figures put the average age of a first-time buyer at 32. For such a couple, an average-priced flat or terraced house would be out of reach in 27 of London's 33 boroughs, as well as parts of the east and south including Cambridge, St Albans and Epsom and Ewell.

In more than half of local authorities in England and Wales, single women on typical wages cannot afford a property in the cheapest band.

Dan Wilson Craw, the deputy director of the campaign group Generation Rent said 'Few people will be able to buy a home sooner than they otherwise would'.

GRENFELL UPDATE

In June, the revelations kept coming at the Grenfell Inquiry.

1. THAT SINKING SHIP FEELING

As the Grenfell Inquiry progresses, witnesses increasingly have the opportunity to corroborate or contradict one another. So far there has been plenty of scope for blame-shifting in what is a complex technical and legal minefield.

But now it is getting very close to personal.

The block's fire safety plan was 15 years out of date and failed to account for more than two dozen of the 37 disabled people in the block, of whom 15 died in the fire.

Who was responsible? Robert Black, the landlord's most senior officer at Kensington and Chelsea Tenants Management Organisation blamed staff for not carrying out managers' instructions. He said that he had "suffered throughout [his] career" from working with people who "forget to fill in the paperwork".

Black has already been criticised by the Grenfell Inquiry chair Sir Martin Moore-Bick who described him as 'passive' and 'essentially detached' from events on the night of the fire.

Now that Black has chosen to blame his staff in this way, it won't be surprising if the revelations get more detailed and personal.

It rather looks as though the rodents are on their way out.



2. WHO ELSE IS IN THE FRAME?

Black was also asked by the inquiry why he had appointed a head of health and safety who had no health and safety background. His response was:

"I wouldn't have had the income to have someone sitting on the executive specifically doing health and safety," said Black. "Local authority funding across the country had been cut."

And that's an argument that will run and run.



FUNDING GENUINELY DECENT HOMES

The *Decent Homes Standard* (DHS), which applies to social housing and vulnerable tenants in the private sector, was introduced in 2002 to address a £19 billion backlog of work on council housing.

The DHS is now undergoing a government review that was announced in the Social Housing White Paper which said that:-

"If the evidence demonstrates that we need to revise the Standard, we will consider the strategic, economic and management case for new criteria as a second stage of the review".

Not only did the Tories stop funding council house building, **they also starved existing council housing of the funds necessary to maintain them.**

Whilst the DHS, in conjunction with a *Major Repairs Allowance* did improve the standard of stock by providing double glazing, central heating and UPVC doors, two Parliamentary Committees judged that the standard was set too low.

The review has set up a 'Sounding Board' to discuss the four criteria by which homes are judged 'decent' or not. These are:

- A. Meet the current statutory minimum standard for housing – they must not have one or more Category 1 hazards (a risk to health).
- B. Are in a reasonable state of repair.
- C. Have reasonably modern facilities and services
- D. Provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

Updating the standard

The Sounding Board is advisory and *"will offer evidence on whether they should be: retained unchanged and why, amended in some way and how, removed altogether and/or if it should be replaced"*. **Decisions will rest with ministers.**

Current position

At the end of March 2020, 4.8% of council homes were judged 'non-decent'. However, the Standard is subject to wide interpretation by landlords. For instance:-

- A home may suffer from mould and damp but still be deemed to be 'decent'.
- The condition of the lift is not considered if you live in a flat, so a home can be deemed 'decent' even if the lift persistently breaks down, effectively trapping aged and/or disabled people in their homes.

In reality, the current condition of the homes and the cost of bringing them up to the new standard must first be assessed. For council homes this requires looking at **Housing Revenue Account** finances.

The 'debt settlement' of 2012

Sounding Board members have raised the need to revisit the 'debt settlement' of 2012 when a new finance system for council housing was introduced. (There is a strong case for debt cancellation, see [debt cancellation](#) .

Treasury manipulation

In the settlement 136 councils were loaded up with £13 billion additional 'debt'. **Servicing the overall debt of slightly under £25.7 billion costs councils around £1.25 billion a year.**

(This 'debt' was the result of financial manipulation by the Treasury. In the 25 years up to 2008, councils received only £60 million in 'allowances' despite council tenants having paid £91 billion in rent. The £31 billion difference was more than borrowing for previous building programmes.)

The amount of debt allocated to councils was largely based on an estimate of rental income over the course of the 30 year business plans they were required to draw up.

Yet changes in government policy since 2012 have meant that estimates of income no longer correspond with the rent councils are now actually collecting. For instance, a rent cut imposed by the government of 1% a year was intended to cut income over the course of councils' business plans by 12%.

The subsequent introduction of the 'enhanced right to buy' produced a nearly five-fold increase in sales. With increased discounts, there was a much greater loss of rental income than was included in the settlement.

The loss of income and the cost of debt servicing means that councils have insufficient funding to maintain the existing standard, never mind improving it.

Under the 2011 Localities Act, the Government has the power to reopen the debt settlement. Cancellation of this bogus debt would give councils at least an extra £1.25 billion a year.

Although the Sounding Board meetings have thus far recommended changes to the existing Standard **there is no commitment from the Government to any additional funding.**

Net-zero commitment?

If the standard is to be improved, then the Government's pledge contained in the Social Housing White Paper must also be honoured, namely, that *"the Decent Homes Standard review considers how it can work to support better energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of social homes."*

As all newly built homes will have to have a non-carbon heating system from 2025, the question of retro-fitting existing homes was raised with the Sounding Board. As well as addressing the issue of global warming, retro-fitting of council homes would improve the living conditions of tenants and tackle one of the persistent problems of damp and mould.

Yet even with a low estimate of £20,000 per property the cost of retro-fitting 1.6 million council homes in England would be at least £32 billion. There is no way that councils can afford this.

If the government fails to provide the necessary grant, it will show that it is not serious about its 'net-zero' commitment.

HELPING RENTERS

In our June edition, we looked at the issues facing renters and the lack of legal protections, particularly for those in the private sector.



This doesn't mean Labour-controlled local authorities can't help.

An example of good practice comes from Tower Hamlets Council in east London which has a **local "Private Renters' Charter"** that provides information and advice in a "Frequently Asked Questions" style.

These include the following: Alarms, Damp and mould, Deposit protection, Electrical safety, Fair tenancy, Gas safety, It's your home!, Letting Agency fees, Making complaints, Moving out, No discrimination, Pest problems, Reasonable repair, Rent Increases and Tenancy agreements.

Full details are available at
[Tower Hamlets Private Renters' Charter.](#)



HOMES UNFIT FOR HEROES

Much of the single living accommodation provided by private contractors for the 80,000 service men and women has been neglected, some of it so poor that two battalions' worth weren't asked for rent.

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee says there was "no single senior person with responsibility for single living accommodation, limited coordination across the commands and no clear departmental strategy".

Little surprise that 29% told the 2020 Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey, that its poor standard of accommodation increased their intention to leave.

THE MAKING OF A

1983 1997

22,500 words / 52 pages long / over 400 pledges

18,000 words / 45 pages / just five "early pledges"

Why review this now?

A General Election is probably at least three years away, so it may seem odd to begin a series of articles now, but this has never been a quick or painless process for Labour and manifestos rarely benefit from being drafted in a hurry. This article looks at past experience and how it might shed light on the task that lies ahead.

What are Party manifestos for?

Like many of Britain's "constitutional arrangements", there little in law about the role of political parties' manifestos. They can and do contain anything that their authors' pledge but they can really matter if the "Salisbury Convention" is invoked.

This says that the House of Lords should not oppose a Bill that enacts a manifesto pledge.

Most people would expect a manifesto to be at least as reliable a statement of intent as, say, a restaurant menu. Some ingredients may have changed but the dish should still be recognisably what was offered. In short, the manifesto remains a promise and our integrity is often judged on how reliable it turns out to be.

Labour Party rules

Within the Labour Party constitution, a specific rule, "Clause V", defines who will sign-off what is put before the public. (See [Rule Book 2020](#) - page 3.)

"When not in Government the NEC, the Shadow Cabinet, the Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party ('PLP'), the Leaders of the Scottish and Welsh Labour Parties, and the Chair and three vice Chairs of the NPF and eight Trade Union members of the TULO Contact Group shall decide which items from the Party programme shall be included in the

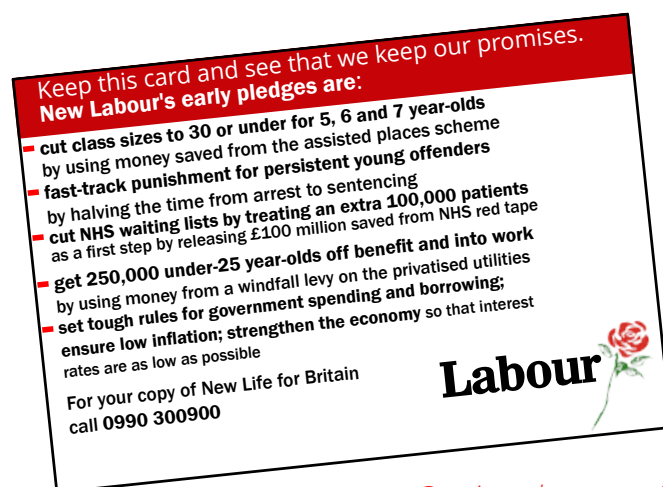
manifesto that shall be issued by the NEC prior to every general election."

Note the initial use of the phrase "Party programme" rather than "Party manifesto". It implies that there is a 'precursor document' which contains all the items under consideration. It also acknowledges that the policy-making process as a whole should identify the issues that need to be tackled and the opportunities that should be seized.

These ideas will have come from many sources. Some will prove to be premature, impractical or contradictory, but good ideas not thought robust enough to withstand the heat of a General Election campaign should not simply be lost.

There also needs to be space for the wider Party to "fly kites" without committing the leadership or risking abuse by hostile Tory media. If Labour is victorious, they may later provide approaches that the new government will be able to work with.

What we traditionally think of as "The Party Manifesto" – that is, a published document – needs to emerge from this process. What it contains requires a fine political judgement by the Clause V group for use in the campaign that follows.



Continued on page 7

THE MAKING OF A

But it also needs to have been fed with good material – relevant, innovative and properly-considered.

"The longest suicide note in history" - Gerald Kaufman, MP on the 1983 manifesto

A witness said "We were in charge of distribution – leaflets, posters, rosettes,



Reading Pads etc – and, of course, the Manifesto from the basement of the Party HQ in Walworth Road.

One day we got a telephone order for 850 copies of the Manifesto. Since it was a slow moving item we were

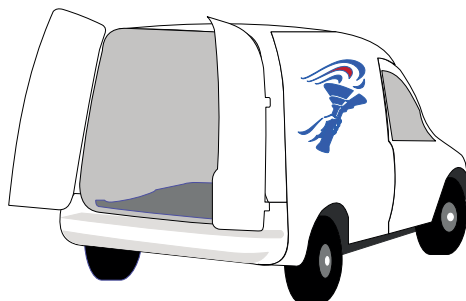
delighted and excited, though the caller wouldn't identify the CLP that was ordering them.

So possibly it was a trade union.

The caller said he would pay cash, itself unusual, but we said yes, OK. We totalled up the bill, issued an invoice and stacked up the many, many boxes.

The next day a man, who we vaguely recognised from Parliament, rolled up with a big Transit van and we loaded it for him, till it was hard down on its rear axle, and he gave us the money and drove off.

The following day we found out that it was Tory Central Office who had bought a copy for every Tory Candidate, and an extra couple of hundred."



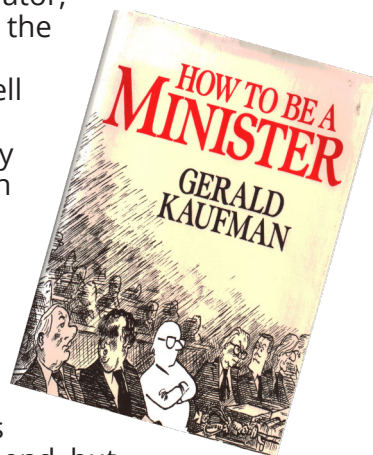
BOOK REVIEW

How to be a Minister

Published 1980 ISBN 0 283 98685 9

This book, published over forty years ago, remains unchallenged for its wit, brevity, insight and good sense.

The author, Gerald Kaufman, a journalist and canny political operator, manages to convey the fragility of Labour Governments as well as the excitement, often stoked by very narrow majorities in the House of Commons.



Kaufman makes clear that being a Minister is a very real responsibility upon which lives and livelihoods depend, but he warns repeatedly against being sucked in to the mechanisms and conventions of Whitehall. Ministers are urged to stay in touch with their local party and constituents even at the cost of annoying the civil servants who manage his diary.

Above all, it is a very political guide.

Party policies matter, even when they demand the impossible:- "it is not always feasible to translate a line in a manifesto into meaningful action however hard you try." A reason he gives for this is that "as a minister with a great department at his disposal you have access to more information than your Party's Research Department can hope to accumulate."

His final chapter on leaving office gracefully should be taken to heart by even the most ambitious of comrades.

It is a pity that, four decades on, the companion piece we need on how to devise coherent policies and implement them remains unwritten.

Sir Gerald Bernard Kaufman, born 21 June 1930, served as a Member of Parliament from 1970 until his death in 2017, first for Manchester Ardwick and then for Manchester Gorton. He was also Father of the House from 21 June 1930 until his death in 26 February 2017.

REVIEWING LABOUR'S 2019 HOUSING MANIFESTO

It is striking how many good ideas for housing, based on practical experience are contained within Labour's last manifesto.

Most of the 41 individual pledges (*marked with a red tick* ☒) itemised below withstand scrutiny from this distance.

Yet there are further steps needed to turn this into a *programme for government*. It needs a

Everyone has the right to a decent, secure home.

In 1945, Labour promised to 'proceed with a housing programme with the maximum practical speed until every family in this island has a good standard of accommodation'. In 2019, we renew that pledge. But too many people are being denied their right to a good home by our housing system that treats homes as financial assets rather than places to live.

1. There is no starker symbol of the failing housing system than the horror of the Grenfell Tower fire.
2. A Labour government will bring system-wide change, so that a tragedy like Grenfell never happens again.
1 ☒ We will introduce a £1 billion Fire Safety Fund to fit sprinklers and other fire safety measures in all high-rise council and housing association tower blocks, enforce the replacement of dangerous Grenfell-style cladding on all high-rise homes and buildings, while introducing mandatory building standards and guidance, inspected and enforced by fully trained Fire and Rescue Service fire safety officers.
3. Grenfell Tower was the confirmation of a more far-reaching crisis. Everyone knows of someone affected by the housing crisis: younger people unable to buy a first home, renters trapped in damp flats, families stuck on council waiting lists, leasehold home-owners hit by unfair fees, people who are homeless living and dying on our streets. The gap between the housing haves and have-nots is at the heart of the injustice in our country today.
4. Since 2010, the Conservatives have slashed funding for new homes, refused to regulate for higher standards and

clearer sense of priorities and process – what must be done and in which order. This would include an outline of what new legislation and funding regimes would be required.

This is work that the Shadow Front Bench will lead but to which we would hope to make a significant contribution.

Paul Martin (Editor).

given a free hand to commercial property developers. There are fewer new homes for social rent, a million more households stuck renting from a private landlord, 900,000 fewer young people owning a home and more than twice as many people sleeping on our streets.

5. Only Labour has a plan to fix the housing crisis. **2 ☒ We will act on every front to bring the cost of housing down and standards up, so that everyone has a decent, affordable place to call home.**
6. **3 ☒ create a new Department for Housing, make Homes England a more accountable national housing agency and put councils in the driving seat.**
4 ☒ We will set out a strategy for a flourishing construction sector with a skilled workforce and full rights at work.
7. **5 ☒ Labour will set up a new English Sovereign Land Trust, with powers to buy land more cheaply for low-cost housing.**
6 ☒ We will use public land to build this housing, not sell it off to the highest bidder. Developers will face new 'use it or lose it' taxes on stalled housing developments.
7 ☒ We will keep the Land Registry in public hands, and make ownership of land more transparent.
8. **8 ☒ We will make brownfield sites the priority for development and protect the green belt.**
9. **9 ☒ Labour will tackle the climate crisis and cut energy bills by introducing a tough, new zero-carbon homes standard for all new homes,**

REVIEWING LABOUR'S 2019 HOUSING MANIFESTO

and upgrading millions of existing homes to make them more energy efficient.

10 ✓ We will review the planning guidance for developments in flood risk areas.

Council and Social Homes

10. The only way to deliver on everyone's right to a good home is to build publicly funded social housing.

11. **11** ✓ Labour will deliver a new social house-building programme of more than a million homes over a decade, with council housing at its heart.

12 ✓ By the end of the Parliament we will be building at an annual rate of at least 150,000 council and social homes, with 100,000 of these built by councils for social rent in the biggest council house-building programme in more than a generation.

13 ✓ We will establish a new duty on councils to plan and build these homes in their area, and fund them to do so, with backing from national government.

12. **14** ✓ We will scrap the Conservatives' bogus definition of 'affordable', set as high as 80% of market rents, and replace it with a definition linked to local incomes. These council and housing association homes will be more affordable than market housing and built to higher standards.

15 ✓ We will end the conversion of office blocks to homes that sidestep planning permission through 'permitted development'.

13. **16** ✓ We will stop the haemorrhage of low-cost homes by ending the right to buy, along with the forced conversion of social rented homes to so-called 'affordable rent'. **17** ✓ We will review the case for reducing the amount of housing debt councils currently hold.

And **18** ✓ will give councils the powers and funding to buy back homes from private landlords.

14. **19** ✓ We will give tenants a stronger say in the management of their

homes and stop social cleansing by making sure regeneration only goes ahead when it has the consent of residents, and that all residents are offered a new property on the same site and terms.

20 ✓ We will fund a new Decent Homes programme to bring all council and housing association homes up to a good standard.

Home Ownership

15. Under the Tories, home ownership is getting further out of reach for more and more people. Numbers of new affordable homes to buy have fallen, and fewer younger people can afford their own home. **21** ✓ We will build more low-cost homes reserved for first-time buyers in every area, including Labour's new discount homes with prices linked to local incomes.

16. **22** ✓ We will reform Help to Buy to focus it on first-time buyers on ordinary incomes. **23** ✓ We will introduce a levy on overseas companies buying housing, while giving local people 'first dibs' on new homes built in their area.

24 ✓ We will bring empty homes back into use by giving councils new powers to tax properties empty for over a year.

17. **25** ✓ Labour will end the scandal of leasehold for the millions who have bought their home but don't feel like they own it.

18. **26** ✓ We will end the sale of new leasehold properties, abolish unfair fees and conditions, and give leaseholders the right to buy their freehold at a price they can afford.

27 ✓ We will introduce equivalent rights for freeholders on privately owned estates.

Private Renters

19. More than 11 million people rent from a private landlord and many of them are at the sharp end of the housing crisis.

28 ✓ We will take urgent action to protect private renters through rent

REVIEWING LABOUR'S 2019 HOUSING MANIFESTO

controls, open-ended tenancies, and new, binding minimum standards.

20. **29** ✓ Labour will stop runaway rents by capping them with inflation, and give cities powers to cap rents further.
21. **30** ✓ We will give renters the security they need to make their rented housing a home, with new open-ended tenancies to stop unfair, 'no fault' evictions.
- 31** ✓ We will make sure every property is up to scratch with new minimum standards, enforced through nationwide licensing and tougher sanctions for landlords who flout the rules.
- 32** ✓ We will fund new renters' unions in every part of the country - to allow renters to organise and defend their rights.
22. **33** ✓ We will get rid of the discriminatory rules that require landlords to check people's immigration status or that allow them to exclude people on housing benefit.
- 34** ✓ We will give councils new powers to regulate short-term lets through companies such as Airbnb.

Homelessness

23. No one should sleep without a roof over their head in one of the richest countries in the world. But under the Tories, the number of people sleeping rough has more than doubled.
24. Over 125,000 children are now living in temporary accommodation, without a home to call their own - or the space they need to thrive.
- 35** ✓ Labour will tackle the root causes of rising homelessness with more affordable homes and stronger rights for renters.
25. **36** ✓ Labour will end rough sleeping within five years, with a national plan driven by a prime minister-led taskforce.
- 37** ✓ We will expand and upgrade hostels, turning them into places where people can turn their lives around.

38 ✓ We will make available 8,000 additional homes for people with a history of rough sleeping.

39 ✓ We will tackle the wider causes of homelessness, raising the Local Housing Allowance in line with the 30th percentile of local rents, and earmarking an additional £1 billion a year for councils' homelessness services.

26. **40** ✓ We will bring in a new national levy on second homes used as holiday homes to help deal with the homelessness crisis, so that those who have done well from the housing market pay a bit more to help those with no home.
27. **41** ✓ We will save lives this winter by ensuring extra shelters and support are in place in all areas. And we'll repeal the Vagrancy Act and amend antisocial behaviour legislation to stop the law being used against people because they are homeless.

What is the role of the LHG in manifesto making?

The recommendations from Labour's 2018 Democracy Review about the Socialist Societies' positive contribution to the Party's policy-making processes encouraged us to ensure that our inputs are sound and wide-ranging.

In 2020, we looked for "blind spots" in our policies (see page 7 of <https://labourhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/LHG-Newsletter-April-2020.pdf>). This is not always easy to do as it can require a change of perspective.

It may be that the work we are now doing with the *Labour Campaign for Human Rights* will provide that new angle.

If you would like to contribute, email me at pauljmartin@clara.co.uk.

Paul Martin (Editor and Policy Officer)

LHG EXECUTIVE 2020-2022

LHG's Executive was elected at the AGM 21st March 2020 for the two years to 2022.

Executive members

Andy Bates (co-opted)

Janet Berry

John Bevan

Rachel Blake

Nick Bragger (co-opted)

John Cotton

Ed Derrick

Gerard Heffey (co-opted)

Ross Houston

Heather Johnson

Paul Martin

Amanda Pinnock

Sheila Spencer

Christopher Worrall
(co-opted)

WHAT IS THE LABOUR HOUSING GROUP?

The Labour Housing Group is a lobbying group that is affiliated to the Labour Party and dedicated to the development of a socialist housing policy.

You can contact us at <http://labourhousing.org/contact> and join us at <https://labourhousing.org/membership/>

Individuals must be members of the Labour Party and agree to be bound by Labour Party rules and the LHG constitution.

£ APPEAL £ APPEAL £ APPEAL

If you cannot spare time and energy, you can still help us in our work by making a donation by bank transfer to:

"Labour Housing Group", Account number 50478080, Sort code 08-90-06,

Co-operative Bank, PO Box 1AN, Blandford Street, Newcastle, NE99 1AN.

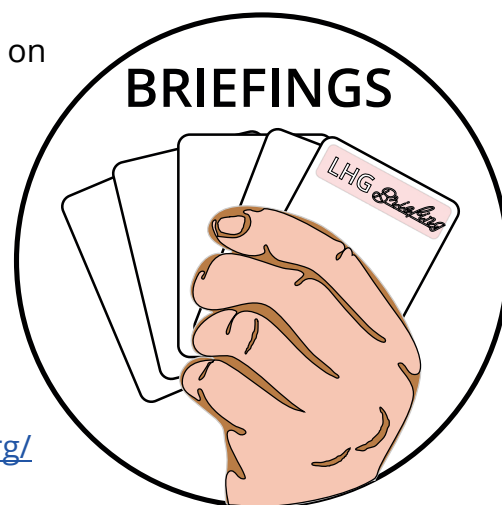
Of course, you can also send a cheque made payable to "Labour Housing Group" c/o **The Treasurer, Flat 2, 8 Torrington Park, London N12 9SS**

PLEASE QUOTE "LHG2020 CAMPAIGN"

For readers new to housing policy issues, *Labour Housing Group* publishes a series of short guides aimed at a wide readership.

Our published **Briefings** on current topics include *Homelessness, Rough Sleeping, Affordable Housing, Private Renting Sector, Rural Housing and Leasehold Reform*.

They can be found at:
<https://labourhousing.org/resources/lhg-briefings/>



The latest edition covers *Council Homes*.

If you would like to contribute, please email our Policy Officer, Paul Martin at pauljmartin@clara.co.uk.

Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Labour Housing Group.