

LABOUR'S HOUSING POLICIES - A DOORSTEP GUIDE



Key facts about the current housing crisis

The Tories called their last Green Paper on housing "**Fixing the Broken Housing Market**". It is very much broken, but their policies have made matters worse in almost every way:

- ◆ Since 2010 Conservative Ministers have **built fewer homes** than any government, Labour or Conservative had **since 1923**
- ◆ The Tories have built only about **50,000** Council or Housing Association homes in the last 5 years (compared with Labour's **142,000** social rented homes in our last 4 years in government)
- ◆ The Conservative and Coalition Governments have **failed to deliver a single new starter home** despite promising to build 200,000 by 2020
- ◆ **80% of housing investment** is now spent on **home ownership**
- ◆ **House prices have risen** by 76% since 1995
- ◆ **134% rise** in **rough sleepers** between 2010 and 2018
- ◆ **726** homeless people **died on the streets** or in temporary accommodation in England and Wales in 2018
- ◆ **60% rise** in numbers of **households in temporary accommodation**; **120,000 children** are in temporary accommodation; Councils spent **£93.3 million** on **Bed & Breakfast for homeless families** in 2017-18
- ◆ **The Housing Benefit bill** was **£23.4 billion** in 2018-9
- ◆ **3.4m** 20-34 year olds are **still living with parents**
- ◆ **Private sector rents** have gone up by 3 times wages since 2010, and private renting is **unaffordable** for working families on low wages in two thirds of the country
- ◆ **Right To Buy** has led to more than 1.8 million council homes being sold in Great Britain since 1980 – but more than 40% of council houses sold are now **privately rented**

What will Labour do to solve the housing crisis?

"Only Labour has a plan to fix the housing crisis. 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." *It's time for Real Change, Labour Party Manifesto 2019*

1. **Build an average of 155,000 public rented homes** each year. At least 100,000 of these will be council homes. This will help our plan to tackle the root causes of homelessness, and to end rough sleeping within 5 years
2. Introduce a **£1bn Fire Safety Fund to fit sprinklers and other fire safety measures** in all high-rise council and housing association tower blocks, and **enforce the replacement of dangerous Grenfell-style cladding** on all high-rise homes and buildings
3. **Abolish Assured Shorthold Tenancies** and make all tenancies indefinite – private tenants will no longer have to move every 6 months or every year
4. **Introduce rent caps and rent controls**, so that no-one will have to pay more than one third of their earnings on their rent
5. **End the Right to Buy** and the forced conversion of social rented homes to so-called 'affordable rent'
6. **Abolish the Bedroom Tax** (which punishes tenants for any spare bedrooms)
7. **Reform the leasehold system** and give leaseholders the right to buy their freeholds
8. **Establish a new English Sovereign Land Trust**, with powers to buy land more cheaply for low-cost housing
9. **Set up a new Decent Homes programme** to improve public rented housing
10. Set up a **zero-carbon homes standard for all new homes** and upgrade millions of existing homes to make them energy efficient **(and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs)**

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