



Revised Spring 2022

A DOORSTEP GUIDE TO LABOUR'S HOUSING POLICIES

LABOUR'S HOUSING POLICIES - A DOORSTEP GUIDE

Key facts about the current housing crisis

Although the Tories called their Green Paper "*Fixing the Broken Housing Market*", their policies have only made matters worse.

It is still broken in almost every way.

- The Tories plan to build **only 30,000** new Council or Housing Association homes in the five years to 2026, compared with **142,000 Labour built** in our last 4 years in government
- The Conservative and Coalition Governments promised to build 200,000 by 2020 but **failed to deliver a single new starter home**.
- More **socially rented homes are lost each year** through *Right to Buy*, demolitions, and conversions to "affordable rents" than are built.
- Since 1980, more than 2 million council homes in Great Britain have been sold under *Right to Buy*, but **more than 40% of former council houses are now privately rented**.
- **House prices and rents across the UK are rising faster than inflation and wages**
- The number of households in temporary accommodation rose by 53% between 2010 and 2021, leaving **96,060 households** and **120,000 children without a permanent home**.
- **Homelessness in England is set to jump by a third by 2024**
- The number of rough sleepers rose by 38% between 2010 and 2021. **699 homeless people died on the streets or in temporary accommodation in England and Wales in 2020**
- **Tory policies have produced soaring rent, food and energy bills** while councils have had to spend £142million in 2019-20 on bed & breakfast for homeless families
- In 2022, a million families on low wages are **paying private landlords rents they cannot afford**
- Housing Benefit in the UK **cost £17.29 billion** in 2020-21 – money that goes into landlords' pockets rather than building new homes
- 3.6m 20-34 year olds were **still living with their parents** in 2020
- **1.5 million people are living in overcrowded social homes**, while 1 in 5 renters live in housing which adversely affects their health.

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 homes
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)**