

Support for Homes for Britain Q & A

Why are you backing Homes for Britain?

There is a housing crisis in the UK which means people across the country are struggling to find the homes they need at a price they can afford. That's why we're backing Home for Britain's call for the next government to commit to ending the housing crisis within the next generation.

What is Homes for Britain?

Homes for Britain is backed by thousands of people across the country who have joined forces with organisations from every corner of the housing world. They are all united behind one clear call – that all political parties must commit to end to the housing crisis within a generation.

Why now?

The 2015 General Election is within arms' reach. It offers an opportunity to show politicians that the public want to see more homes built and action taken until everyone has a decent affordable home. The time has come to end the housing crisis. For the sake of the next generation we must act now.

What is 'within a generation'?

If a baby is born on the 7 May 2015 – the day of the General Election – we don't want them to be facing the same housing crisis by the time they reach 25.

So we want the next government to publish a long-term plan, within a year of taking office, that will show how they will end the housing crisis within a generation – the next 25 years.

We have had enough short-term housing initiatives, now we need a long-term plan that tackles the underlying causes of the housing crisis - not just tinkering around the edges.

What is the 'housing crisis'?

The housing crisis is hugely varied across the country, but boils down to two key problems: affordability and quality. Both mean that people across the country are struggling to find the homes they need at a price they can afford, either for themselves or for their families.

In some areas it's about working with what we've got to improve existing homes, create jobs and regenerate communities. While in others there is a shortage of homes; estimates show that the UK needs around 245,000 new homes built a year – but we didn't even build half of that in 2013. We would need even more to clear the backlog of pent-up demand.

All this pushes up prices – the average first-time buyer today needs a £30,000 deposit, almost ten times¹ the deposit required in the early 1980s.

This has a knock-on effect on renters, too. Private sector tenants now pay an average of 40% of their income on housing costs.

How is the local area affected by the housing crisis?

The **Region** needs to build **X** homes, yet just **X** were built in 2013. High demand pushes up prices for those who want to buy and renters, too. We're asking that everyone has access to the home they need at price they can afford.

What is the Relay to the Rally?

The Relay to the Rally is part of the wider Homes for Britain campaign. Alongside other groups from around the country we're making our way to the Homes for Britain rally in Westminster on 17th of March.

Thousands of people are coming together in the heart of Westminster for the biggest housing rally in a generation to urge the parties to back our call. We want politicians to sit up and take note, so we're taking the issue to their front door.

¹ Adjusted to account for inflation

Who else is involved in the Homes for Britain campaign?

The Homes for Britain campaign brings together the entire housing world – from house builders to homeless charities - to call for all political parties to commit to end the housing crisis within a generation.