

Key proposals of Conservative housing policy

- (1) Open up shared ownership schemes to a wider audience, rather than the small number of workers in the state sector at present, and end the scandal of new homes lying empty.
- (2) Increase support for shared ownership schemes from within the existing housing budget.
- (3) Remove the obstacles that John Prescott has introduced to social tenants buying their own home. We also want social tenants to part-own their property as a step to full ownership.
- (4) Examine the scope for a 'rent to own' scheme, in which households instead of paying rent, could pay a mortgage, and so over time, social tenants would own or part own their homes.
- (5) Continue to campaign against Labour's 'half-baked' Home Information Packs which will damage the health of the housing market and increase costs.
- (6) Promote e-conveyancing and greater take-up of the National Information Land Service by local authorities to speed up the home buying process.
- (7) Ensure more homes are built, suitable for first time buyers, whilst protecting the environment.
- (8) Oppose Gordon Brown's plans for a new land development tax, which will force up the cost of new homes.
- (9) Examine the role of financial incentives for councils to promote economic development.
- (10) Change John Prescott's planning rules to encourage the creation of homes with gardens and parking spaces that families want, and tackle the under-supply of family homes.