

# Creating a More Affordable Barnet



# Tackling the Housing Crisis

The Conservatives had no plan to deal with the housing crisis, or to protect private tenants.



In May 2022, we came in with an ambitious agenda to start work on tackling housing need and ensure families can access quality homes.

Nationally, Labour's action on the economy in difficult times has helped reduce interest rates from the disastrous post Liz Truss mini-budget high.

We have also empowered leaseholders to hold their management companies to account and brought building new council homes back to Barnet.

# A lot done already

Here's just a few key things we've delivered:

- We introduced a strategic target that 50 per cent of all homes on new developments should be affordable.
- We brought our planning department back in house and set up a **quality design panel** to protect the character of the borough.
- We added **protections in the new Local Plan** setting out where tall buildings would be appropriate and developed a Sustainable Design & Development Supplementary Planning Document which sets out policy on issues like height and density.
- We have prioritised low and medium rise housing in our council homes building programme.
- We have secured delivery of **1,000 new council homes** for the borough, and a further 899 affordable rent homes, and 686 social rent homes through partners.
- In total, **2,583 affordable homes** have been completed onsite through the planning system since 2022, with many more in the pipeline through approvals.
- Our council homes service, Barnet Homes, received the highest rating possible from the social housing regulator.
- We have brought back private landlord **licensing to protect tenants**.
- We re-introduced secure council tenancies benefitting 1,600 families and ended the unworkable two and five year insecure tenancies introduced by the Conservatives.
- We also re-introduced the two-offer policy for social housing tenants, after it was scrapped by the Conservatives.

# Lots more we will do

- We will provide leaseholders with the information they need to hold their management companies to account
- We will secure **1,000 more homes for social rent** in the borough.
- We will ensure **2,000 more affordable homes** are provided for ownership to help people get on the **home ownership** ladder.
- We will support the Government's roll out of the new '**Freedom to Buy**' mortgage scheme.
- We will help implement the **Renters' Rights** Bill to protect private tenants.
- We will make it easier for families to build double loft extensions in areas of demand.

# Lots to lose under the Conservatives

- They failed to prepare for the surge in emergency housing demand for temporary accommodation or set high enough targets to build enough affordable homes – impacting the lives of thousands and costing taxpayers millions.
- They had no ambition to build the council housing we need to bring down temporary accommodation costs.