

Helping you to buy a home of your own

Our commitment to you:

The chance to own your own home should be available to everyone who works hard. We will:

- *help to **keep mortgage rates lower** by continuing to work through our long-term economic plan*
- *build more homes that people can afford, including **200,000 new Starter Homes** exclusively for first-time buyers under 40*
- *extend the **Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme** to 2020 to help more people onto and up the housing ladder, and introduce **a new Help to Buy ISA** to support people saving for a deposit*
- *give more people the chance to own their home by **extending the Right to Buy** to tenants of Housing Associations and create a **Brownfield Fund** to unlock homes on brownfield land*
- *ensure **local people have more control over planning** and protect the **Green Belt***

Conservatives believe passionately in home ownership. We understand how good it feels when you have worked long hours, saved money for years, and finally take possession of the keys to your first home. For years, however, people have been finding it harder and harder to get on the housing ladder. Under Labour, house-building fell to its lowest peacetime level since the 1920s. Developers were building too few homes and the aftermath of the banking crisis saw young people struggling to raise a deposit.

House building at its highest since 2007

These past five years have been about reversing this trend. We have unblocked the planning system, to help builders start building again. We have introduced Help to Buy, making it much easier for people to secure a mortgage. And we have reinvigorated the Right to Buy which Labour had cut back, extending home ownership to a whole new generation of social tenants. As a result, over 200,000 people have been helped either on or up the housing ladder. Most of those helped have been young first-time buyers spread right across our country.

Everyone who works hard should be able to own a home of their own

As the party of home ownership, we want to go further and faster – and this manifesto sets out our plan. At its heart, a clear objective to build affordable homes, including 200,000 Starter Homes which will be sold at a 20 per cent discount, and will be built exclusively for first time buyers under the age of 40. At the same time, we will extend our Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme, introduce a new Help to Buy ISA, extend the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants and make sure that, when it comes to planning decisions, local people are in charge.

And for all those already in their home, we will make sure we continue working through our economic plan, so mortgage rates stay lower for longer and people can keep hold of their homes and plan for the future – safe in the knowledge they have a government that is competently looking after the public finances so they can look after their own.