

## PUBLIC HOUSING: PROVIDING 500,000 NEW SOCIAL RENTED HOMES

Successive governments' affordable and social housing policies have failed. There is not enough housing for those unable to afford either to buy or to pay market rents. The time has come to reverse the decline of council housing, started by the 'Right to Buy'.

We would:

- Provide 500,000 social rented homes to high sustainability standards by increasing the social housing budget from £1.5 billion a year to £6 billion a year in the lifetime of the Parliament, removing borrowing caps from local councils, and creating 35,000 jobs.
- Devolve *Housing Benefit* budgets to councils, so they can design packages that improve access to housing in their local market and enable them to provide more council housing.
- End mass council house sales and the *Right to Buy* at a discounted price.
- Provide more rights for *homeless people*, giving local authorities the same duties with regard to single people and childless couples as to families, and ending the practice of declaring people 'intentionally homeless'. Aim to end rough sleeping completely, and give public authorities a duty to prevent it.
- Oppose new *arm's length management organisations* and ensure genuine tenant participation in existing ones.

### Greens in power carry out our housing policies

In Green-led Brighton:

- In November 2012 Brighton Council introduced a new licensing scheme by which private landlords letting a property for sharing by three or more people must bring it up to an agreed standard. More than 1,500 licences were applied for by April 2014.
- By July 2014 the Green-led Council had brought some 416 council homes and more than 460 empty private homes back into use.
- By November 2014 Greens had overseen the delivery of 389 affordable homes (as part of wider residential and mixed developments). Another 130 are due to be completed before May 2015.
- In the Green Party's term of administration it will have overseen the building of 639 homes. A further 681 affordable homes, including more than 200 new council homes, are in the development pipeline.
- For the first time in living memory, communal heating bills in some Brighton & Hove Council blocks have fallen as Council tenants benefit from a major programme of energy efficiency retro-fitting.