

Housing: Campaign against the Tories' pernicious Housing and Planning Act

On 9 August 2016 Shelter published research highlighting the plight of millions of working families who are struggling to afford sky-high housing costs. Shelter's chief executive said these families are 'stretched to breaking point and barely scraping by from one pay cheque to the next.' The research also reveals that a fifth of working parents face the prospect of being immediately unable to pay their next rent or mortgage payment if they lose their job.

Conference recognises that the Tories' Housing and Planning Act would, if implemented, disastrously increase the problems facing those in need of decent, secure and genuinely affordable housing.

Conference supports calls from councils across the country for the government to pause and review the Act's provisions.

Conference opposes measures in the Act that will:

- Introduce 'Pay-to-Stay' and increase the rent for many social housing tenants to unaffordable levels.*
- Force councils to sell off council houses and massively reduce stocks of vitally needed council housing.*
- Scrap the permanent, secure, social housing tenancies which provide stability to our most vulnerable communities.*
- Replace the planning requirement for social rented units with that for unaffordable starter homes.*

Labour is committed to campaign for a massive increase in the supply of housing, including council housing with proper security of tenure and genuinely affordable rents. Labour will therefore vigorously campaign against the Act which threatens that commitment.