

Housing

V2.0



Shelter Scotland found that Aberdeen City and Shire had some of the highest house price increases in Scotland between 2009-2014

Why is housing important for the North-east?

High land values and under-supply have decreased the availability and affordability of housing in the North-east, and the region has a higher house prices than the Scottish average. This is a barrier to attracting new people to live and work in the area.

The North-east needs more housebuilding, a more efficient planning system and a promotion of innovative solutions to supply affordable accommodation for key workers who are difficult to recruit and retain.



The Conservatives propose to build 100,000 new properties by 2021. They may support the private sector with grants so that half of these are affordable homes.

They want speedier planning decisions, public registers of brown-field sites and linking planning fees to department performance.

Labour says they will deliver 60,000 affordable homes, 45,000 for social rent, with high standards of thermal insulation. 10% will be wheelchair accessible.

They want to regulate private rents and offer up to £3,000 to 1st time buyers who are saving monthly to buy a deposit.

The Lib Dems wish to increase the number of affordable homes by 50,000 in the next parliament, ensuring that 40,000 of them are for social rent.

They would work with the British Business Bank to help direct support to small and medium sized house-builders.

The SNP manifesto pledged to build 50,000 affordable homes, 35,000 of which will be for social rent.

They will restore entitlement to housing support for 18-21 year olds.

They also state their support for the continued operation of the Help to Buy scheme.

The **Greens** wish to make private rents more affordable and make land ownership data public.

UKIP wants to build 50,000 social and affordable houses, give a £10,000 per unit grant for remedial work on brownfield sites and identify land held dormant by local and central government.

Further information

All of the parties, except for the Lib Dems, want to start register land ownership in Scotland to help identify areas open to development. The SNP calls for a public register of the ownership of major tracts of rural land by landowners or tenants. Labour wants Scottish land to be registered in the EU. The Conservatives would ask local authorities to compile this register for brownfield sites. UKIP wants to identify land held long dormant by local and central government.

Important Updates

What does North-east business want from the next Scottish government?

Read it here bit.ly/1Ddlo5l

These papers have been drafted by the AGCC policy team using the information publicly available in April 2015. More information will be added as and when it becomes available.