# Labour’s housing initiatives reveal focus on reckless development over community needs



Labour’s so-called “housing initiatives” are once again revealing their true priorities — more reckless development, all under the guise of “building” for the people. The new sites announced for the so-called New Homes Accelerator—covering areas in London like Billet Road in Redbridge and High Road West in Haringey—are just more schemes to cram in as many homes as possible, often at the expense of local communities and green spaces. The promise of 12,000 “new homes,” with some “affordable” allocations, masks the reality: these developments are driven more by political optics than genuine housing needs.

Let’s be clear. The High Road West project, which claims to be delivering over 2,600 homes, includes only 40% affordable housing—far below what’s needed for genuine social housing. Meanwhile, these projects often neglect the concerns of local residents, prioritising dense urban sprawl over proper planning, infrastructure, or quality of life. The community facilities touted—libraries, parks—are often afterthoughts to distract from the core goal: rapid, uncontrolled development.

London’s Mayor has expressed his “determination” to use government powers to build homes, but it’s a desperate attempt to cover up an underlying failure — the government’s refusal to implement sensible planning policies. Instead, the Mayor and Labour officials push for more intervention, including the questionable strategy of releasing green belt land for development—a move that risks sacrificing precious green spaces under the false assumption that “more homes” equals “better lives.” This approach undervalues the importance of having accessible green areas and sustainable urban planning.

Furthermore, these initiatives are bolstered by what can only be described as an excessive reliance on government funding — a staggering £11.7 billion—yet still, underlying issues remain. Massive spending does not guarantee affordable homes; often, it just fuels more sprawling developments, pushing communities further apart and risking environmental damage. The promise to “work with ministers” for more funding is just a platitude. The real question is whether these policies will deliver genuinely affordable, high-quality housing or just more of the same failed urban expansion.

The repeated emphasis on increasing council housing and expanding development into green belt areas signals a clear failure of traditional housing policies. How many times must we see promises of “more homes” that end up serving developers’ interests while real affordability and community needs are ignored? The focus should be on smarter, sustainable solutions — not overdevelopment and green belt erosion — which only serve to exacerbate London’s housing crisis rather than resolve it. It’s time for a different approach, one that prioritizes the quality of life, safety, and accessibility for all Londoners, not just quick political wins.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/homesandproperty/property-news/labour-reveals-six-locations-for-12-000-new-homes-redbridge-haringey-b1244679.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/homesandproperty/property-news/labour-reveals-six-locations-for-12-000-new-homes-redbridge-haringey-b1244679.html> - Labour has announced six new locations for its New Homes Accelerator programme, aiming to expedite the delivery of 12,000 homes. Two of these sites are in London: Billet Road in Redbridge and High Road West in Haringey. The High Road West development is set to provide over 2,600 new homes, with 40% designated as affordable housing, alongside community facilities such as a library and public park. Billet Road will create 1,341 new homes, featuring a community hub and public open spaces. Mayor Sadiq Khan expressed his commitment to collaborating with the government to unblock housebuilding and deliver the homes Londoners need.
3. <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-joins-housebuilders-call-urgent-investment-new-homes-avoid-national-downturn> - In November 2023, Mayor Sadiq Khan and leaders from London's housebuilding sector called for urgent investment to prevent a national downturn in housebuilding. The London Housing Delivery Taskforce presented 29 proposals to safeguard the delivery of thousands of homes, with a focus on new council housing. The taskforce highlighted the risk of housebuilding falling to the lowest level since World War II due to high interest rates and building cost inflation. The Mayor urged the government to match his commitment to boost the supply of new homes and implement the taskforce's recommendations.
4. <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-launches-major-new-programme-convert-private-housing-into-council-homes-aim-10000-additional> - In November 2023, Mayor Sadiq Khan announced a new programme enabling councils to purchase homes from the private market, aiming to add 10,000 council homes over the next decade. This initiative follows the success of the Mayor’s Right to Buy Back programme, which brought over 1,200 homes into council ownership. The new programme addresses the urgent need for social housing and temporary accommodation, with over 170,000 Londoners, including more than 83,000 children, currently living in insecure temporary accommodation.
5. <https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-release/towards-new-london-plan> - In May 2025, Mayor Sadiq Khan announced plans to actively explore releasing parts of London's green belt for development to address the housing crisis. He argued that the current approach of building only on brownfield land is insufficient to meet the demand for new homes. Developing parts of the green belt, particularly near transport links, could deliver hundreds of thousands of new affordable homes. The Mayor emphasized the importance of strategic development to boost biodiversity and public access to green spaces.
6. <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-to-help-councils-start-10000-new-homes> - In August 2023, Mayor Sadiq Khan announced the 'Building Council Homes for Londoners' programme, the first-ever City Hall initiative dedicated to new council housing. The programme aims to help councils build 10,000 new homes over the next four years, addressing the decline in council homebuilding since the 1990s. The Mayor criticized the government's previous underinvestment and imposed restrictions on borrowing, offering councils more funding and support to boost their homebuilding plans.
7. <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-welcomes-biggest-ever-funding-settlement-affordable-housebuilding-capital-huge-win-londoners> - In July 2025, Mayor Sadiq Khan welcomed the government's £11.7 billion funding settlement over ten years for affordable and social housebuilding in London. This funding, representing up to 30% of the national total, supports the Mayor's efforts to build on his housing record, which includes the highest level of council housebuilding since the 1970s and record overall housing completions since the 1930s. The Mayor pledged to work with ministers to secure even more support to help build the level of genuinely affordable homes London needs.