

TENANTS' MANIFESTO

2015

The market isn't working. Millions of tenants are being ripped off in poor housing. Homeless numbers are rising fast. Council, housing association and private tenants and all those who need a home demand action.

1

Build council housing

Direct investment without strings in existing and new council housing – including action to free Councils of historic debt to build new council housing

2

Rights for private renters

Regulation of Private Rented Sector to include repair standards and controlled rents; secure tenancies to end retaliatory and no-fault evictions; end unfair practises by letting agents, including discrimination against tenants on housing benefit, fees and charges to tenants and unjust withholding of deposit

3

Powers over landlords

Councils to have necessary powers and resources to regulate the Private Rented Sector, including powers to acquire housing that fails to meet standards, to improve and let this as council housing

4

Stop benefit cuts

End the Bedroom Tax and welfare cap now

5

Energy efficient

A funded programme to bring all existing and new council and other rented housing up to highest energy efficiency standards

6

Secure and affordable

End use of (un)Affordable, up to 80% market Rent and 'Flexible' fixed term tenancies to replace normal council/ housing association rents and tenancies

7

Right to buy

Replace every home sold through Right to Buy like for like, with council tenancy and rent level; ring fence all receipts from Right to Buy for reinvestment; end discounts and give Councils power to suspend Right to Buy if local housing needs dictate this

8

Empty homes

Powers to enforce the occupation of empty properties needed to meet housing need; stop criminalising squatting and occupations

9

New build

All new housing development to include at least 50% really-affordable housing for rent

Contact us with your comments, or to add your support, email: info@defendcouncilhousing.org.uk

10

Public land

All public land used for housing to create 100% publicly-owned, really affordable housing