

Penny Mordaunt

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HOMES IN PORTSMOUTH

We need more homes – but they must be built in a way that protects the environment and provides the infrastructure to support local communities. That's why local people need to decide where new homes should go, instead of Whitehall bureaucrats. And that's why we will use incentives to encourage new homes to be built, rather than letting unelected quangos impose unsustainable development on communities.

We are concerned that the amount of new homes to be built in Portsmouth will cause massive pressures on our local infrastructure and further exacerbate the parking problems we have in the city. This is in part due to the fact that each property does not have to have its own parking space.

Labour's planning rules have resulted in a shortage of family homes and the bulldozing of homes with gardens - and they have prevented the market building new homes with parking spaces and gardens. This has a knock on effect of creating social problems, as often families find it difficult to live together, for example if a person wants to look after their parents. A Conservative Government will change these rules as a matter of urgency.

In addition Mr. Brown's property tax hikes have helped kick a whole generation off the housing ladder. We will address this by:

- **Scrapping Stamp Duty** for first-time buyers on homes up to £250,000, so that nine out of ten pay nothing
 - **Abolishing Home Information Packs** which have made moving house even more expensive and difficult
- Where as Labour have curtailed the right of social tenants to own their home, a Conservative Government will make it easier for social tenants to own or part-own their home. This will not only help people up the housing ladder, but also ensure residents have greater pride and a greater stake in their community.

Portsmouth rent rises seized by Government

Recently the Government has started taking large amounts of cash out of the system (known as the HRASS) which distributes council housing revenue between local authorities, so it can use it for general government expenditure.

New rules mean that if a council offers lower rent than the notional rent set by government, it still has to pay the difference. So rents are being kept artificially high.

Penny Mordaunt said, "During these tough times we should be doing all we can to keep rents down, and it is a moral scandal that so much money should be removed from Portsmouth. Last year Portsmouth council house tenants faced paying out £4.6 million and the entire rent rise went to fund the HRASS payment, as will this year."