

The fall in new social rented homes is a result of seven years of Tory failure on housing – John Healey

John

Healey MP, Labour's

Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, commenting on new Government statistics showing a 98 per cent fall in new social rented homes, said:

"After seven years of Tory failure on housing, homelessness has doubled, home-ownership has fallen to a 30-year low and the number of new genuinely affordable homes being built has fallen off a cliff.

"These shocking new figures show that in the six months before the Chancellor's so-called 'housing Budget', the number of new Government-funded homes for social rent fell by 98 per cent compared to Labour's last year in office.

"It's time Ministers supported Labour's plan to build 100,000 low-cost homes to rent and buy a year, including backing councils to build again."

Angela Rayner comment on Social Mobility Commission State of the Nation Report

Angela Rayner MP, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, commenting on the Social Mobility Commission's State of the Nation Report 2017, said:

"In every area the Commission has highlighted, the Tories' record is one of failure. Under the Tories, Sure Start funding has been cut by half, nurseries are in crisis, there are 400,000 more children living in poverty and the Chancellor has just pocketed a £750m under-spend on childcare rather than invest in our kids.

"The Government has missed its teacher recruitment targets five years in a row – and for two years running more teachers have left classrooms than joined the profession.

“The Government’s offer on social mobility is a scheme to take a few children up to thirty miles a day by taxi to get to the nearest grammar school, while cutting school transport for the many.

“The consequences are stark. The country is becoming more divided, with the life chances of the poorest dependent on their postcode. Labour will do things very differently by creating a National Education Service to give opportunities to every child, whatever their background, as we transform Britain into a country that works for the many, not the few.”

Brexit impact assessments should have been shared in full without redaction – Starmer

Keir Starmer MP, Labour’s Shadow Brexit Secretary, responding to reports about the release of the Brexit impact assessments to the Select Committee for Exiting the European Union, said:

“Parliament was very clear in its instruction to ministers. All 58 impact assessments should have been shared with the select committee in full, without redaction and unedited.

“If the Government has failed to comply with this ruling then we will not hesitate in raising this matter with the Speaker.”

Labour urge ministers to meet deadline for releasing Brexit impact studies

Keir

Starmer, Labour’s Shadow Brexit Secretary, has urged ministers to meet the deadline for handing over the 58 Brexit impact studies to MPs tomorrow [Tuesday 28 November] or risk being held in contempt of Parliament.

Earlier

this month, MPs unanimously backed a Labour motion for the economic impact studies to be released to the Select Committee for Exiting the European Union. MPs on that Select Committee will then have the

right to review the impact studies and determine what information is put in the public domain.

The Speaker of the House of Commons said motions of the kind tabled by Labour “have in the past been seen as effective or binding.”

Responding to the decision, the Brexit Secretary, David Davis, said on Tuesday 7 November: “The Government is committed to providing the information to the Committee as soon as possible. I have made plain to the House authorities that we currently expect this to be no more than three weeks [Tuesday 28 November].”

If ministers fail to respond to Labour’s motion, then they risk falling in contempt of Parliament.

Parliament’s rulebook Erskine May states that “actions which...obstruct or impede” the Commons “in the performance of its functions, or are offences against its authority or dignity, such as disobedience to its legitimate commands.”

Labour is calling for the papers to be handed over, unredacted before Parliament rises tomorrow.

Keir Starmer said:

“There is huge anxiety across the country about the impact of the Government’s Brexit approach on jobs and the economy.

“Labour fully understand the importance of protecting the UK’s negotiating position with the European Union. However, the decision agreed unanimously by MPs earlier this month was about transparency and ensuring Parliament had the information it needs to hold ministers to account during the Brexit process.

“Ministers have accepted that the vote was binding and they must now respect Parliament’s decision. That means releasing the impact studies to the Brexit Select Committee in full and unredacted before Parliament rises on Tuesday. If

ministers fail to act then we will have no choice but to raise this matter with the Speaker of the Commons.”

Government's Industrial Strategy is just re-announced policies & old spending commitments – Rebecca Long-Bailey

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, responding to the publication of the Government's Industrial Strategy, said:

“This is a White Paper made up of re-announced policies and old spending commitments, showing once again that this is a Government short on details and new ideas.

“Nothing in the White Paper will help give businesses the certainty or incentives they need to invest in the face of the Government's catastrophic handling of Brexit.”

“What detail there is concentrates on a few elite industries in which Britain already has an advantage, and will do nothing to help the millions of people who work in low productivity and low wage sectors such as retail, hospitality and social care, or those based outside the “Golden Triangle” made up by London, Oxford and Cambridge.

“After the Budget last week, the Government's economic credibility has been shot to pieces. This White Paper falls far short of the change of direction needed to improve our dire productivity, income and GDP growth. Labour's Industrial Strategy set out a radical programme of investment and genuine partnership between industry and government, to build an economy for the many, not just the few.”