



## A Liberal Party Discussion Document

### What is the most important issue affecting the country today? - HOUSING

A proposal for a letter to be sent or presented to all residential households / voters across the whole country including the media. Red = costing.

£650,000

What is the most important issue affecting the country today? - HOUSING

Housing – why do the big building firms only build 150,000 homes a year? Because they are not interested in smaller projects. Small works should only be carried out by local builders, making them less dependent on big companies to offer them the contracts.

We propose support for councils to compulsory purchase vacant land for building on by smaller firms.

How many buildings are empty in the UK at present that could be repaired or converted ? It is not only houses or homes but some shops too. An estimated one million. These small building works could and should be carried out by smaller British builders registered with HMRC.

Why are there a million properties empty in the UK?

- Deliberately empty?

- Some need restoration
- Some because of tax avoidance?
- Some in the Council's care cannot be repaired.

For example, I heard that six houses were given away in Liverpool because the council could not repair them.

I want your help in order to get this solved. As you know, we have the Land Registry, which has details most, but not all property in the UK.

Registration with Land Registry should be made compulsory to ensure the efficient management of empty properties, with one example in Liverpool stuck in probate for 37 years.

The information there could be used by dividing them into three main groups.

- Exempt: churches, mosques, hospitals, schools and other public places.
- Those owned by foreign nationals
- Those owned by UK residents.

It is essential that all such properties currently with planning permission be released into the scheme immediately, with builders given just three months' notice of this proposed insistence.

We will set up a special housing committee in Parliament with funds to organise the scheme and send out the letters and media communications within a set time.

**£24 billion**

Lottery style Prize Fund of £1M for any member of the public who can point out empty, wasted properties near them. They need to

give us a telephone number! If they point out an empty property, their name goes into the lottery.

£1M +

Further, it is clear, old ways of dealing with valuations are useless. A new system of Land Tax applicable to all of us needs to be set up. This will reduce the rates by approximately 10 percent.

Businesses should be supported with Business Relief. Anyone who owns a property in the UK will be obliged to pay this Land Tax unless exempt as above. Certain exemptions will apply as above.

With this scheme, under no circumstances, should any farmland be used for anything but farming. No compulsory purchases should be necessary. This scheme would not include farm properties. Farm owners should apply, in the usual way, to their local council for planning permissions for their own building plans.

I am proposing that half of these properties are sold and half are used for rentals.

This system needs to be set up urgently.

Finally, we support leasehold reform, and there should be better control of charges imposed on people in leasehold properties.

**We can do it together!**

Peter White and Kim Milward

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