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# Housing & Communities: Councillor Lynda Thorne

# CAPITAL AMBITION



We understand that having a good-quality home, in a community where people feel safe and connected, is important to each and every one of our citizens. We know that, for many people, finding and securing the right home is a real cause of concern. House prices are high, renting may not offer the long-term security needed and the housing waiting list is too long. We know too that the rise in those facing destitution and homelessness is not acceptable. We intend to tackle these issues.

Cardiff Council is one of only a handful of local authorities who have committed to building new Council homes. This is a great start, but we want to go further. Across the city the Local Development Plan provides for the construction of over 41,000 new homes by 2026. We will use the opportunity this rapid growth provides to deliver a greater number of secure, affordable and decent homes across Cardiff. We also want to make sure that our housing waiting list is fair, that people understand why we have to prioritise some people over others, and that we act quickly to help the homeless.

A strong economy is vital to tackling poverty, but a focus on creating jobs alone is not enough. A strategic focus on job creation must go hand in hand with effectively removing the barriers to work – whatever they may be - helping people into good jobs and good careers. This Administration will work with partners to help remove barriers people face to getting and keeping a job, joining up our into-work services, whilst also supporting every person and family affected by Welfare Reform and the roll-out of Universal Credit.

## We will:

- Start by **building 1,000 new Council homes** through the Cardiff Living Scheme and taking forward other innovative housing initiatives.
- Work with developers to deliver over **6,500 affordable homes by 2026 through the Local Development Plan** and strengthen our approach to housing development, considering strategic investment that addresses all types of demand for housing, such as social housing, affordable housing and housing that supports extra care and independent living.
- Reduce the number of problem and vacant houses through the **Empty Homes Policy**.
- **Drive up standards in the private rented housing sector** by:
  - Ensuring private landlords comply with their legal obligations under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
  - Hosting the Welsh Government's Rent Smart Wales scheme- an all-Wales registration and licensing scheme- which works to prevent rogue agents and landlords letting and managing properties.
- **Address rough sleeping in the city** through delivering, with partners, the Rough Sleeper Strategy, including:
  - Adopting a 'No First Night Out' policy.
  - Piloting new approaches, including a 'Housing First' model which moves rough sleepers straight from the streets into a home.
- **Support those affected by Welfare Reform and help more people find jobs that give them dignity and pride** by working with partners to further develop into-work services and by providing a network of volunteering opportunities.
- **Invest in local communities** by completing the Maelfa Shopping Centre regeneration and delivering new Community Hubs in Llanedeyrn and Llanishen, extending the St Mellons Hub and further developing the Ely and Caerau Hub with our partners.
- Help **make Cardiff communities a safe place to live** by addressing anti-social behaviour and working with partners to promote inclusion across the city.
- Maintain a **network of accessible library services**.
- Put local communities at the heart of our approach by launching a new **Community Engagement Strategy** and developing **Community Involvement Plans**, giving people a voice in shaping Council services, helping connect people and councillors with local service providers and with activities taking place in their neighbourhoods.