

TACKLING HOUSING AND HOMELENESS

by Cllr Ruairi McCourt, Cabinet Member for Housing

I am the lead member for housing on Rother District Council. As such I am determined that housing and homelessness are pushed to the top of the political agenda.

For the last fourteen years the Conservative government has badly neglected housing with over a dozen Tory housing ministers failing to get a grip on the problem. The results are shocking:

- By late 2023 157,640 families were homeless – this is 12.1% higher than before Covid.
- A recent Shelter report suggested that 440,000 children across the UK are sleeping on floors.
- £1.7 Billion is spent on temporary accommodation each year.
- Poor housing costs the NHS at least £2 billion per year – with terrible impacts due to housing insecurity and overcrowding.



Despite these difficult Tory-created circumstances, Labour (as part of the Rother Alliance) has been able to lessen the impact of local homelessness by:

- Buying our own homes – we have gone from a position of having no housing to now having nearly 50 homes. This means we can house people in good quality homes and avoid the costly private sector.
- Recruiting extra staff to help people find accommodation – we are now one of the best performing councils on the south coast in this regard.
- Working with developers in East Sussex to build more homes.

Moreover, we'll be working closely with a future Labour government to increase resources to tackle the Housing crisis.

A red pushpin is pinned to a white piece of paper. The paper has handwritten text in black and red ink. At the top, it says "Don't forget your PHOTO I.D" with "PHOTO I.D" underlined. Below that, it says "when you VOTE on May 2nd" with "VOTE" circled in red. There is a drawing of a lightbulb with rays emanating from it. To the right of the lightbulb, it says "Police & Crime Commissioner Election". At the bottom, it says "CHECK if registered GENERAL ELECTION SOON!" in red ink. There is also a scribbled-out area at the bottom left of the note.

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Use your vote.**

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& check that you're
registered.

gov.uk/how-to-vote

 **Labour**