



The Lyons Housing Review

What you need to know

At the Labour Party Conference 2013 Ed Miliband announced his plans for a Labour Government to build over 200,000 new homes a year in England by May 2020, up from the current level of 107,950 in the year to September 2013, the lowest figures since World War 2.

A Housing Commission under the chairmanship of Sir Michael Lyons has been asked to draw up a plan of how this can be achieved and an expert panel has been appointed to advise him when reviewing evidence and developing his conclusions.

No one in the civic society movement can be unaware that there is a serious housing shortage in England not only in terms of the number of homes in relation to demand but also in respect of the very high cost of buying or renting.

This need for housing is being driven by a combination of demographics (an aging population and an increase in the number of smaller households) and an increasing population 56million in 1983, 64million in 2013 and a projected rise to 65million in 2018 increasing to 70million by 2030. The cost of housing is rising disproportionately to other essential needs, to the extent that many young people will never be able to afford market prices or rents if matters continue as they are.

Sir Michael Lyons has identified a number of key areas on which he would like to focus:

1. The land Market
2. Investment in housing and infrastructure
3. The role of a new generation of New Towns and Garden Cities
4. Co-operation between adjoining local authorities in the planning process.
5. Sharing the benefit of development with local communities.

These are matters that will affect our towns and cities all over the country and civic societies are at the heart of our communities.

Civic Voice will be submitting evidence to the Lyons Housing Review and we would like our civic society members to let us have their views.

The closing date for submission to Civic Voice to inform the civic society movement response is February 3rd 2014 to info@civicvoice.org.uk.

The closing date for submission to the Lyons Review is **28th February 2013**.