ON-THE-DAY BRIEFING GENERAL ELECTION 12TH DECEMBER



What does a Conservative government mean for housing?

The Conservative Party has gained significant ground in Northern constituencies, making 30 gains, and taking control of constituencies which have been safe Labour seats for many decades. The last time the North had such a significant presence within a governing party at Westminster was after Tony Blair's third victory in 2005.

It is worth considering the potential impact of the national and regional results for housing in the North. Below, we re-cap what the Conservative manifesto promised on housing and regional investment and outline key results – where seats have changed parties, or new candidates have been elected

Likely policy priorities for the new government

The Conservative manifesto promised the levelling up of the regions and investment in Northern infrastructure and the Northern Powerhouse. With Conservative gains in many traditional Labour constituencies in the North, this pledge takes on greater resonance for those newly elected Northern Conservative MPs : we can expect the new government to have a greater stake and interest in the region.

These are the headlines from the Conservative manifesto



- A continued pledge to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s but no target for social housing within the overall number.
- Commitment to renew the Affordable Homes Programme.
- Incentives for homeownership will be key to housing policy.
- Full implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act, and to end rough sleeping.
- For private renters, a continued promise to scrap Section 21 and end no-fault evictions.
- On building safety full implementation of the Hackitt review recommendations.
- On climate change, the party has set a target of reaching Net Zero by 2050 with investment in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure with a 'social housing decarbonisation fund' amounting to £710m over 4 years in addition to a 'public sector decarbonisation scheme'. Existing proposals included the Future Homes Standard to decarbonise new homes from 2025 but they have yet to make any commitment to the retrofitting of existing homes.
- They have pledged to bring forward the long-awaited Social Housing White Paper early in the new year following consultation on the Green Paper back in 2018.
- An English Devolution White Paper will be forthcoming with the promise of greater regional investment as well as devolved power.

Northern Constituencies with a change of party

North East

Tory Gain	The first Labour loss of the evening, and the first sign that things were about to drastically change, was in the traditional Labour seat of Blyth Valley which Labour has had held since 1950 - the seat was taken by Ian Levy for the Conservatives.
Tory Gain	Darlington which had been held by Labour for the last 20 years was taken by Peter Gibson for the Conservatives.
Tory Gain	Stockton South was a Conservative gain for Matt Vickers.
Tory Gain	In Redcar Jacob Young for the Conservatives unseated Labour's Anna Turley who had served as a member of the BEIS Committee.





Tory Gain	Bishop Auckland was a Conservative gain with a swing of 9.5% to see Dehenna Davison elected.
Tory Gain	Sedgefield, Tony Blair's former constituency while he was Prime Minister fell to the Conservatives with Paul Howell ousting Labour's Phil Wilson.
Tory Gain	In Durham North West, Laura Pidcock – Labour's rising star - was defeated by the Conservatives Richard Holden.

North West

Tory Gain	Shadow environment secretary Sue Hayman lost the previously safe Labour seat of Workington in Cumbria to Mark Jenkinson for the Conservatives.
Tory Gain	In one of the biggest swings of the night, Leigh saw a Conservative gain for James Grundy with a 12% swing away from Labour.
Tory Gain	Blackpool South is a gain for the Conservatives with Scott Benton taking the seat from Labour's Gordon Marsden.
Tory Gain	Burnley was taken for the Conservatives by Anthony Higginbotham.
Tory Gain	Bolton North East was taken for the Conservatives from Labour by Mark Logan beating David Crausby by just a few hundred votes.
Tory Gain	Barrow and Furness is a Conservative gain over Labour with the election of Simon Fell.





Tory Gain	Bury South was a Conservative gain for Christian Wakeford taking the seat from Labour.
Tory Gain	Heywood and Middleton is a Conservative gain for Chris Clarkson winning over Liz McInnes by a few hundred votes.
Tory Gain	In Bury North Labour's James Frith lost out to Conservative James Daly by about 100 votes.
Tory Gain	In Crewe and Nantwich Kieran Mullan won for the Conservatives
Tory Gain	Warrington South was a Conservative gain for Andy Carter.
Tory Gain	Hyndburn was a Conservative gain for Sara Britcliffe.
Tory Gain	Dewsbury was a Conservative gain for Mark Eastwood.
Tory Gain	In Colne Valley Jason McCartney took the seat for the Conservatives. He previously held the seat from 2010-2017.
Tory Gain	Penistone and Stocksbridge was a Conservative gain for Miriam Cates.





Yorkshire & Humber

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Tory Gain	Don Valley saw Caroline Flint, former energy secretary for Labour, ousted by the Conservatives as Nick Fletcher took the seat.
Tory Gain	In Great Grimsby , former shadow housing spokesperson, Melanie Onn was defeated by the Conservative candidate Lia Nici.
Tory Gain	Keighley was a Conservative gain for Robbie Moore away from Labour.
Tory Gain	In Scunthorpe Holly Mumby-Croft won for the Conservatives with a 12.8% swing.
Tory Gain	Wakefield Imran Ahmad-Khan beat Labour's Mary Creagh.
Tory Gain	In Rother Valley Alexander Stafford took the seat for the Conservatives following the retirement of Labour's Sir Kevin Barron with a share of vote for Labour cut by a third.

New faces in Northern constituencies

North East

Labour Hold	Jarrow was held by Labour with Kate Osborne taking the seat after Stephen Hepburn stood down having been suspended by the party.
Labour Hold	Durham City was retained by Labour with Mary Foy, the Gateshead councillor and former parliamentary assistant to Stephen Hepburn MP, taking the seat following the retirement of Roberta Blackman-Woods.

North West

Stockport was regained for Labour by Navendu Mishra. The previous Ann Coffey retired having left Labour to join Change UK.	MP
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Tory Hold	Rory Stewart stood down as MP for Penrith and the Border having declared his intention to run for London Mayor. The seat was retained for Conservative by Neil Hudson.
Labour Hold	Liverpool Riverside was won by Labour's Kim Johnson, a UNISON shop steward, following the retirement of Louise Ellman who had recently decamped from Labour to Independent.
Labour Hold	Stephen Twigg (responsible for the famous "Portillo moment" in 1997) retired and the Liverpool West Derby seat was retained by Labour's Ian Byrne. He previously worked for Labour frontbencher Dan Carden MP in the neighbouring constituency of Liverpool Walton.
Labour Hold	Liverpool Wavertree was won by Labour's Paula Barker, following the departure of Luciana Berger who stood, unsuccessfully, for the Liberal Democrats in Finchley and Golders Green.

Yorkshire and Humber

Labour Hold	Sheffield Hallam was won by Labour's Olivia Blake following Jared O'Mara standing down after being suspended by Labour.
Tory Hold	South Ribble was retained for the Conservatives by Katherine Fletcher after Seema Kennedy retired.
Labour Hold	In Warrington North Charlotte Nichols just scraped through as the new Labour candidate following the retirement of Helen Jones.

Other changes to key figures

Jo Swinson, Leader of the Liberal Democrats went into the election with a narrow majority of 5,339 (10.3%) in her Dumbartonshire East seat, and was narrowly defeated this time, losing to the SNP.

In a night of upsurge for the Conservatives, key figures retained their seats including Robert Jenrick, former Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Dominic Raab, former short-term minister of state for housing managed to squeak home with a narrow victory as did lain Duncan Smith, former Tory Leader in Chingford and Woodford Green. Jake Berry, Minister of State for the Northern Powerhouse in the last Parliament also retained his seat in Rossendale and Darwen.

Conclusion – and next steps

The NHC made contact with candidates in key seats during the campaign, and will be contacting all newly elected MPs in Northern constituencies to talk to them about our priorities for #OurNorth :





- Raising the quality of existing housing stock in the North through a flexible regeneration fund and target support to housing providers to meet essential net-zero carbon emissions targets.
- Expand the affordable homes programme and ensure it continues to provide fair and equitable support to the North to create great homes and places.
- Create capacity in our councils to deliver the affordable and social housing needed across the North.

The Government will be setting out its Parliamentary programme straight away. The delayed Budget will be held, probably after Brexit occurs on 31st January, and there will be a Spending Review in April 2020. We will be setting out Northern priorities ahead of the full Spending Review.

We will also be liaising with the Northern MPs to re-establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Housing in the North and working with them to resume the Inquiry into Standards in the Private Rented Sector in the North.

It will be a busy few months ahead – Parliament will be meeting before Christmas and the NHC will be getting its messages out to the new MPs and newly appointed Ministers as they take up their new roles.

