

## More Affordable Housing in Islington

Emily Thornberry MP  
**ON YOUR SIDE**



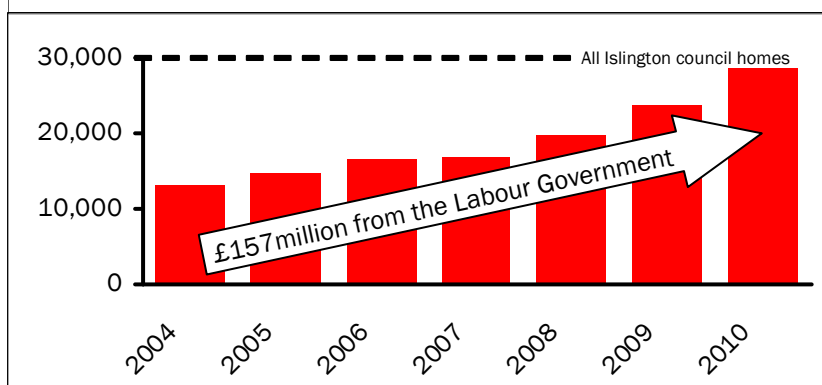
We need more homes in Islington that our families can afford (council homes, housing association, Hfl, etc.). So in October I met the Government Housing Minister with Jeremy Corbyn, Islington Labour councillors, and local residents to talk about housing in Islington.

### First the good news...

I told the Minister that we are happier these days with the quality of our homes and we remember how awful Islington's estates were before 1997.

The Government is spending £157million doing up Islington's affordable housing. By the next general election, all our homes will have up-to-date kitchens and bathrooms, and proper heating.

**Number of Islington homes with up-to-date kitchens bathrooms, and proper heating.**



### ...but then the bad news

Then I told the Minister about the 13,000 families on the housing waiting list, most of who are living in overcrowded homes.

I told her about a family I met—7 people in a 2-bed flat. They only have 169 points—which in practice means they can barely bid for a 1-bed flat! They are stuck because there isn't enough cheaper rented housing in the borough and the private market is out of their reach.

Bedrooms needed	Average number of points for winning bids
Bedsit/studio	159
1-bed	204
2-bed	249
3-bed	287
4-bed	312

**Number of points needed to get a new home this autumn according to the Islington Gazette**

**Now the Minister has seen that the quality of our homes has improved, but she knows we simply must build more.**

## But how can we get immediate action?

Once the Government has finished spending money doing up the housing we have already, we must spend money on building more.

**In the meantime, we should get a head start on building more affordable homes.**

When developers build new luxury flats in Islington, they make huge profits. So Islington's council should stand up to them and say:

*"OK – build your luxury flats on half the site. But the other half has got to be for us"*

If developers build their luxury flats on half of new sites, they'll still make plenty of profit. But on the other half of the site, they should be forced to build cheaper rented homes for us.

## The Lib Dem Council must stand up to developers

Islington's Liberal Democrat Council said they had finally agreed to our "half and half" policy after the council elections in May. But they didn't really mean it. Look at the small print – they let developers off the hook if they build less than 10 homes.

And since 86% of developments in Islington in the last 5 years have been less than 10 homes, almost all developers are getting away with not helping our housing crisis one bit.

### It could be different...

3 examples of missed opportunities from last year

#### 90 Banner Street, EC1

The council approved 8 luxury flats...  
It could have been 4 luxury and 4 for us.

#### 144 Holloway Road, N7

The council approved 6 luxury flats...  
It could have been 3 luxury and 3 for us.

#### The Offord Arms, 388 Caledonian Road, N1

The council approved 5 luxury flats and a private house...  
It could have been 3 luxury, with 2 flats and a house for us.

## So what next?

Islington's 13,000 families don't need any more weasel words from the council. Half should mean half – and if this Lib Dem council won't stand up to developers, the Government must force it to.

Working together we've been able to speak directly to the ear of Government about Islington's housing crisis. The Minister received the first 1,000 supporting signatures in October, and as more people join the campaign, I'm sending her their signatures.



**Giving the Government Housing Minister (4th from the right) the first 1,000 signatures**

**To get immediate action, the Minister has said she will look at ways of forcing Islington Council to stand up to all developers.**