

THE LONDON EMPTY HOMES CHALLENGE








The Empty Homes Agency is an independent campaigning charity, which exists to highlight the waste of empty property in England and works with others to devise and promote sustainable solutions to bring empty property back into use.

The Empty Homes Agency throws down the gauntlet to the contenders for the London mayoralty on empty homes. In an open letter to the candidates from the main parties, the EHA invites them to respond to its five-point London Empty Homes Challenge.

The London Empty Homes Challenge asks candidates whether they will pledge to do five things to help bring back into use the capital's 86,000 empty homes and make better use of other under-used buildings to accommodate Londoners' housing needs. The Challenge asks candidates whether they will:

1. Set an ambitious target to cut empty homes in London
2. Prioritise action to tackle empty property as the most environmentally and heritage-friendly way of increasing London's housing supply
3. Actively encourage and support enforcement action by London boroughs where incentives fail to bring properties back into use
4. Promote and support the spread of 'short life housing' - temporary housing use of buildings awaiting re-use, refurbishment or redevelopment
5. Press London boroughs to abolish the remaining tax breaks for owners of empty homes

Answers overleaf.....>>>

1		An ambitious target to cut empty homes Will you set an ambitious target to reduce both the proportion and the total number of London's homes that have been empty for six months or more?
2		Re-using buildings to protect the environment In the light of the environmental, heritage and regeneration advantages of re-using existing buildings over demolition and new development, will you put action to tackle empty property at the top of your agenda for increasing London's housing supply?
3		Getting serious about enforcement Will you encourage and support enforcement action by London boroughs where incentives fail to bring properties back into use, including active encouragement to councils to use Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs)?
4		Hoardings or housing? Making best use of buildings in transition Will you promote and support the spread of short life housing to simultaneously make better use of London's empty buildings and help meet housing need, including leading by example with the GLA, TfL and LDA property portfolios.
5		Ending the empty homes tax break Will you use your influence and powers to press all London boroughs to abolish any remaining council tax discount on empty homes?

The London Empty Homes Challenge



	An ambitious target to cut empty homes				
	Re-using buildings to protect the environment				
	Getting serious about enforcement				
	Making best use of buildings in transition				
	Ending the empty homes tax break				
TOTAL *		4 ¼	5	4 ½	4 ¼

* The scores are based on the answers to the challenges and the candidates' individual targets on bringing empty homes back into use.