Tpas Election Webinar

Top Takeaways

With the election some might say thankfully drawing to a close, Tuesday saw some lively online discussion in our special Election Webinar led by Caritas and Claire from the policy team.

During a busy two hours we looked at the Tpas priorities for a new government that form our Tpas Asks campaign and deep dived into each of the 4 main party's manifestos to see what their offer was for the voting public when it came to Housing Policy. Here for those unable to attend are our top takeaways.

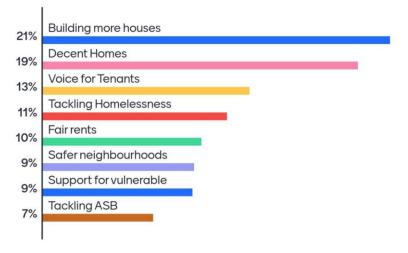
Build More Houses

The attendees who were a 50/50 mix of tenants and staff were asked to prioritise their top issues for the sector and unsurprisingly the need to build more houses came out on top. The discussion went on to say that the priority was not only to build more housing, but also the right sort of housing, with a plea to all to stop over selling affordable housing as for many on the lowest incomes that just wasn't an option.

Tackling the poor state of existing social homes also polled high with many mentioning issues such as damp and mould and the chronic underfunding of initiatives to improve existing stock. A call for major investment was made with much discussion on how stock conditions played a contributing factor in health and economic deprivation.

Many in the room were appreciative of the new consumer standards but felt that a properly resourced and supported national tenant voice in housing policy and strategy development was essential. Those attending felt it needed to be able to feed from the bottom up and that using existing structures such as the regulator and local authorities to assist in facilitation was vital.

What are your housing priorities



Lacking Ambition

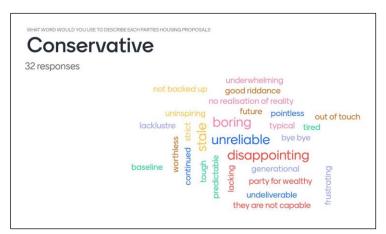
There was a general feeling of disappointment felt about all the political party manifestos when it came to housing with many feeling that they all pretty much lacked a coherent plan to tackle the housing crisis.

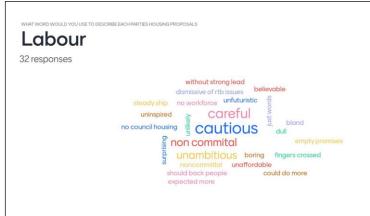
Many applauded those who advocated the abolition of Section 21 and the mention of housebuilding targets, but again the lack of mention of specifically Social Housing apart from the Greens was felt by all to be a mistake.

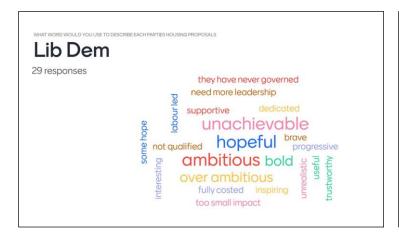
The Liberal Democrats plans were favourably mentioned for at least mentioning the tenant voice in housing governance and though many liked the Greens ambition they felt that their aspirations were unrealistic.

The Conservatives proposals were said to be tired and obsessed with home ownership, and though deemed overly cautious and somewhat dull the Labour manifesto commitments were seen at least as a positive step in the right direction.

We asked participants to do a Word Cloud exercise on each of the parties' housing manifestos with interesting results that are possibly reflective of the general political debate at present.









Tpas will use the information gathered at the event to help shape our plans to lobby the new government alongside our ongoing policy conversations with members, partners, and government.

Watch this space!