

Right to Buy – Position Statement

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

Following discussion at the November Board, it was agreed that the LGA would update its position with regards to our policy asks on the Right to Buy. This report contains that Position Statement and our next steps.

LGA Plan Theme: Supporting local people and places

Recommendation(s)

That the Board

1. Notes the Position Statement at Annex 1.

Contact details

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Background

1. The Right to Buy scheme allows most council tenants the opportunity to buy their council home at a discount. The scheme has helped countless families to get on the housing ladder, and [more than 2 million sales to tenants](#) have occurred since the scheme's commencement.
2. Whilst the Right to Buy can and has delivered home ownership for many, the current scheme is in need of reform so that councils can replace the properties sold on a one for one basis. The LGA remains concerned that rising discounts alongside other measures that restrict the use of Right to Buy receipts mean that one household's home ownership is increasingly being prioritised over another's access to secure, safe, social housing.
3. Included with this report at Annex 1 is the LGA's Position Statement on Right to Buy, following discussion at the November meeting of the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board.

Proposal

4. We published our [six-point plan for social housing in Summer 2023](#), which taken together would enable local authorities to properly resume their historic role as a major housebuilder of affordable homes. In it, the LGA calls for further reform to the Right to Buy scheme.
5. The Position Statement attached as Annex 1 details those policy asks, updates our stance on the scheme and renews long-held asks for reforms to the Right to Buy. We believe these asks would give local authorities the power, control and flexibility over the receipts and delivery of the scheme for the benefit of all.

Implications for Wales

6. None. This report applies to England only.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications.

Equalities implications

8. The Board's work will continue to consider the impact of national policies relating to social housing on tenants with protected characteristics and will lobby Government as appropriate to ensure that emerging policies meet the needs of all social tenants in England.

Next steps

9. LGA officers to publish the Position Statement and collect case studies / examples from local authorities. This work will feed into our Spring Budget submission, the Local Government White Paper and will be used in ongoing lobbying work and wider stakeholder engagement.