

Open letter to the mayoral candidates from business leaders

The housing crisis in London is a major problem for business. If not addressed, whole sectors, including our world-beating technology sector and creative industries will struggle to recruit and retain staff and find themselves losing out to international competitors.

That is why it is vital that whoever is elected as the next mayor of London delivers credible plans and swift action on housebuilding immediately after the election. City Hall has already recognised that the capital needs to build 50,000 homes a year by 2020 to deal with its growing economy. But unless practical action is taken, the capital will reach a tipping point as employees across a wide range of sectors begin to face extreme housing pressure.

We believe that resolving the issue is now urgent, so that we can protect the creativity, innovation and energy which drive London's business community. We must do better to safeguard the futures of our city's young talent, and words and promises are not enough.

That is why we are calling on the mayoral candidates to commence a timetable of action on housebuilding for Londoners at all stages of life, working across all sectors, as soon as they enter office. Without clear milestones, we risk seeing another mayoral term pass with pledges stated but homes unbuilt. The new mayor must hit the ground running on housing, else the career hopes of thousands of young Londoners will continue to hang in the balance.

Signed by:

Steve Morriss, Chief Executive Europe Middle East and Africa, AECOM
Alan Belfield, UK Middle East Africa Region Chairman, Arup
Bob Rothenberg MBE, Senior Partner, Blick Rothenberg LLP
Chris Grigg, Chief Executive, British Land
Nick South, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Buro Happold
Sir George Iacobescu CBE, Chairman and Chief Executive, Canary Wharf Group
Sir Frank McLoughlin, Principal, City & Islington College
Fredrik Widlund, Chief Executive Officer, CLS Holdings
Jamie Ritblat, Chief Executive Officer, Delancey
Des Gunewardena, Chairman & CEO, D & D London
Jasminder Singh OBE, Chairman, Edwardian Hotels London
Darryl Flay, Chief Executive Officer, Essential Living
Sir Terry Farrell CBE, Principal, Farrells
Sue Terpilowski OBE, London Policy Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses
Elliot Lipton, Director, First Base
Hugh Bullock, Chairman, Gerald Eve LLP
Richard Bate, Head of Real Estate, Gowling WLG
Sacha Romanovitch, CEO, Grant Thornton UK LLP
Peter Vernon, Chief Executive, Grosvenor Britain & Ireland
John Holland-Kaye, Chief Executive Officer, Heathrow Airport Limited
Nicola Shaw CBE, Chief Executive Officer, HS1 Limited
Andrew Murphy, Group Productivity Director, John Lewis Partnership
George Kessler CBE, Joint Deputy Chairman, Kesslers International Limited
Robert Elliott, Chairman and Senior Partner, Linklaters
David Montague CBE, Chief Executive, London & Quadrant



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Baroness Jo Valentine, Chief Executive, London First
Mark Reynolds, Chief Executive, Mace
Elizabeth Austerberry, Chief Executive, Moat
John Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, Morgan Sindall Group
Killian Hurley, Chief Executive, Mount Anvil Limited
Kate Davies, Chief Executive, Notting Hill Housing Group
Mick Sweeney, Group Chief Executive, One Housing Group
Anthony Impey, Founder & CEO, Optimity Ltd
Stephen Howlett, Chief Executive, Peabody
David Cowans, Group Chief Executive, Places for People
Mark Bensted OBE, Managing Director, Powerday plc
Nick Bell, Chief Executive, Prospects
David Sleath, Chief Executive, SEGRO
Campbell Robb, Chief Executive Officer, Shelter
John Synnuck, Chief Executive, Swan Housing Association
Russ Shaw, Founder, Tech London Advocates
Tim Hancock, Managing Director, Terence O'Rourke
Lucy Haynes, London Director, The Confederation of British Industry
David Brown, Group Chief Executive, The Go-Ahead Group plc
Kathryn Nichols, Chief Executive, The Nichols Group
Bill Moore CBE, Chief Executive, The Portman Estate
Richard Patient, Founder and Chairman, Thorncliffe
Michael Lowndes, Executive Director, Turley
Professor Michael Arthur, President and Provost, UCL
Basil Scarsella, Chief Executive Officer, UK Power Networks
Andrew Dakers, Chief Executive, West London Business
Bob Weston, Chairman, Weston Group Plc
Martin Sorrell, Chief Executive Officer, WPP Group plc
Baroness Martha Lane Fox, Founder of dot everyone, Lucky Voice and Antigone