

# MPs slam shortage of family housing

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**REDBRIDGE has a dire lack of affordable family housing, according to two of its MPs.**

Mike Gapes, Labour MP for Ilford South, and Lee Scott, Conservative MP for Ilford North, said many families had come to them needing houses, and building family homes not flats in the borough, is the only way to ease their plight.

Their comments come as the *Recorder* can reveal Redbridge

Council has a housing stock of 4,425 homes, but a waiting list of 11,727 people for council properties.

Mr Gapes said: "There is an appalling shortage of affordable accommodation in the borough.

"What's happening is lots of buy-to-rent flats are being built in tower blocks in the centre of Ilford, but we need a commitment from the council to build affordable housing in this borough, for families and children.

"If you need a three to four bedroom house you can wait 10 to 12 years, and by that time your children have grown up.

"This council has a very small housing stock, in addition to some housing association properties and private rents."

The council has been criticised by London Mayor, Ken Livingstone, for keeping a 25 per cent target of affordable housing, while he encourages 50 per cent.

Cllr Keith Prince, Redbridge cabinet member for planning, regeneration and the environment, said: "Redbridge is keen not to take a simple 'target attitude' to the provision of affordable homes.

"The local authority feels that whatever the numerical need is, unless those homes can be landed with appropriate social, community and environmental support, new homes will not be built sustainably, which is the overall aim in Redbridge and in the London plan."

Mr Scott said: "There are two problems, the great need for more family houses and targets set down by Ken Livingstone and the Prime Minister.

"They are saying more homes should be built, but 80 per cent of those who come to me are families."



● Mike Gapes MP



● Lee Scott MP