

# Helen Goodman MP

Working Hard in for all in

## Bishop Auckland



[www.helengoodman.co.uk](http://www.helengoodman.co.uk)

# QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BISHOP AUCKLAND

Providing quality affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges in Bishop Auckland, and I am pleased that Wear Valley District Council and Dale and Valley Homes are making real progress to build new housing and improve our existing housing stock.

Approximately **1000 homes** in Wear Valley have now been brought up to Decent Homes Standards, and I am delighted that Dale and Valley Homes have secured an **additional £40 million** to ensure that



Helen opens a new social housing development in Coney Avenue



Helen meets young mothers at a housing project in Bishop Auckland

every home in Bishop Auckland will reach this standard by 2012 as part of the Government's programme.

I recently opened a **£1 million housing and support project** in Coney Avenue, Bishop Auckland (see photo above) and more than **750 new homes** have been built in Bishop Auckland in the last five years. A further **550 houses are under construction** in Bishop, and planning permission has been granted at 27 sites including affordable housing developments at Greenfields Industrial Estate and Moreland Road.

## LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Thinking locally, which of the following do you think are most needed in Bishop Auckland (please tick one):

1. Property to rent  Property to buy
2. Single-occupancy housing  Family housing  Retirement housing

Do you have any further concerns about local housing (please specify):



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## REAL HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN BISHOP AUCKLAND

The Government has recently introduced a range of measures to help homeowners and would-be homeowners through the economic downturn, and I believe they will:

### i) Help people stay in their home

- £200 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme to help the most vulnerable households avoid repossession
- Reduce qualifying time for Mortgage Relief from 39 to 13 weeks
- Allow households who suffer income loss (e.g. from unemployment) to defer mortgage payments for up to 2 years

### ii) Help people buy their home

- Variety of shared-equity, shared-ownership and rent-to-buy schemes including the £400 million HomeBuy Direct Scheme to help first-time buyers. Contact your local housing (see left/right etc) for details.
- Historically low interest rates to reduce costs

### iii) Help build new homes

- Bringing forward £550 million investment in new social and affordable housing

## YOUR LOCAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION



**Dale & Valley Homes**  
64a Proudfoot Drive  
Woodhouse Close  
Bishop Auckland  
Co. Durham  
DL14 6QT

**Tel: 01388 765555**  
<http://www.daleandvalleyhomes.co.uk/>

To find out more about help for homeowners in Bishop Auckland, visit [www.realhelpnow.gov.uk](http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk)

## CONSTITUENCY SURGERIES

**Friday 8th May** - Community Centre, Montieth Close, West Auckland

**Friday 5th June** - Constituency Office, 1 Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland



You can find out more about Helen's work in Bishop Auckland by visiting her website:

**[www.helengoodman.co.uk](http://www.helengoodman.co.uk)**

Surgeries start at **17:00** and are open to all.

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