

## Tories attack government policy with Property Week Pathfinder investigation

10 March 2010 | By [David Doyle](#).



The Conservatives yesterday seized on a Property Week investigation to berate the government over alleged failures in its flagship housing policy.

Caroline Spelman, shadow secretary for Communities and Local Government, used the feature from last Friday's magazine, "How the Pathfinders Lost Their Way", to criticise Labour over its Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders scheme.

Spelman, speaking in the House of Commons yesterday, said: *"Last Friday's edition of Property Week condemned the government's track record on regeneration by pointing out that the pathfinder scheme has been responsible for the demolition of more than 16,000 homes, yet has created only 3,700 new homes, with a net loss of 12,000 homes.*

*"In short, the scheme has cost £2.2 billion and knocked down four times as many homes as it created. Does the minister regard that as a success?"*

In response CLG minister for state Rose Winterton said: *"As I understand it, for the scheme to which the hon. Lady refers, the expenditure so far has been on acquiring the land. It will continue.*

*"The Government are looking at ways in which we can intervene in the economy at local, regional and national level to address the problems that have arisen during the economic downturn.*

*"The opposition have a hands-off, "don't care" attitude to regeneration and economic development."*

To date the government has allocated £2bn to twelve Pathfinder schemes [Birmingham Sandwell](#) (£139m);

East Lancashire (£270m); Hull and East Riding (£113m); [Manchester Salford](#) (£322m); Merseyside (£295m); [Newcastle Gateshead](#) (£200m); North Staffordshire (£178m); Oldham Rochdale (£184m); South Yorkshire (£245m); Tees Valley (£42m); West Cumbria (£14m); and West Yorkshire (£18m).

[To read the Pathfinders feature click here](#)

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- Chris | 10 March 2010 2:29 pm

John Prescott's record in regeneration and also in transport is absolutely shocking. His list of achievements woeful. The only thing he managed to nail was his secretary

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