

Press release: Brokenshire confirms social housing investment boost

- £1.67 billion social housing deal to deliver 23,000 affordable homes
- Government confirms details of £1 billion investment to support a new generation of council housing

A multi-billion pound boost to social housing across England was confirmed today (26 June 2018) by Secretary of State for Communities, The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, as part of the drive to build the homes communities need.

Around 23,000 new affordable homes will be delivered through a £1.67 billion government investment deal. This will include at least 12,500 social rent homes in high cost areas in a move to support families struggling to pay their rent.

This is part of the government's £9 billion investment in affordable homes, £1.67 billion of which was announced in March 2018 for London. This latest funding will deliver homes across the rest of the country.

The Communities Secretary also heralded a new generation of council housing by inviting local authorities to bid for a share of £1 billion extra borrowing to build much-needed homes. This £1 billion borrowing cap raise will be split equally between London and the rest of England.

Local authorities have requested this extra financial flexibility, which will be allocated to those in areas with the highest affordability pressures to ensure homes are built where they are needed most.

These new measures are part of the government's ambitious plans to build 1.5 million new homes by 2022 through planning reform and targeted investment.

The Rt. Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Communities, said:

The government has ambitious plans to fix the broken housing market and build the homes our communities need.

Today's announcement is a further milestone. It will secure the delivery of an additional 23,000 much-needed affordable homes as well as paving the way for a new generation of council houses.

The majority of these new homes will be in high cost areas helping to ease the burden of rent on hard working families and delivering stronger communities.

A bidding process will now begin for both programmes, with successful bids for the affordable homes funding notified throughout the year. A list of successful councils who have had their borrowing caps increased will be

announced in due course.

Since 2010 over 378,000 affordable homes been built.

An area of affordability pressure would be defined as an area where there is a difference of £50 more per week between average private sector rents and social sector rents.

This funding will include homes let at social rent, alongside other tenures such as affordable rent and shared ownership. All 12,500 of the homes for social rent will be delivered in areas of high affordability pressure.

Registered providers of social housing are invited to bid through Homes England's Continuous Market Engagement process. See [further details](#).

Local authorities outside London are invited to bid through Homes England's bidding process. See the [bidding prospectus](#) detailing who can bid and how bids will be judged.

Press release: Government launches new fund to support small business growth

- new fund will help more small businesses adopt tried and tested technologies to unlock £100 billion of untapped benefit to our economy
- The fund forms part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, building an environment that makes Britain the best place in the world to do business

In a speech to the CBI today (Tuesday 26 June) Small Business Minister Andrew Griffiths will unveil a new £8 million fund to boost the productivity and performance of small businesses in England.

Boosting national productivity and increasing workers' earning power forms a key part of the government's modern [Industrial Strategy](#) and the Business Basics Fund, run by BEIS in partnership with Innovate UK, will help businesses, charities, trade organisations and public sector organisations support small businesses in adopting tried and tested technologies and management techniques.

Once the projects are launched, the government will then work with leading experts to evaluate the effectiveness of each project in boosting productivity, helping to inform future policies.

Research from the CBI suggests that by encouraging more businesses to take advantage of leading technologies, management practices and business support services – such as cloud computing, mobile technology and e-purchasing – the UK economy could receive a £100 billion boost and see a 5% reduction in

income inequality.

Small Business Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, with more than 1,000 new businesses starting up every day, and it is vital that we support them to grow through our modern Industrial Strategy.

The Business Basics Fund will test new and innovative ways of supporting small businesses to take advantage of technologies and management practices – giving small business leaders the tools and support they need to continue to thrive.

Matthew Fell, CBI UK Chief Policy Director, said:

Put simply, UK businesses must do more to improve their productivity to get themselves match fit to compete globally in the years ahead. Low uptake of the nuts and bolts technologies of today is a key feature of the productivity puzzle that can, and must, be tackled.

UK business technology adoption levels are close to the EU average but far behind the front runners, lagging nearly a decade behind the Danes.

The new Industrial Strategy can be the perfect vehicle to get to grips with this missing piece of the jigsaw.

Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive of innovation foundation Nesta, said:

I welcome the launch of the Business Basics Fund, and the commitment to using experiments. Nesta has advocated and run experiments in business support across the world through our Innovation Growth Lab which has worked with a dozen governments.

With this move, the UK is taking a lead in applying experimental methods to boosting productivity – much the best way of ensuring that in the long run public money goes on programmes that really do work.

The launch of the fund is the latest in a number of new measures introduced by the government to boost business productivity, including a review launched last month on how best to raise business productivity.

The [Business Productivity Review call for evidence](#) is open until 6 July 2018 and the government is encouraging workers, businesses, trade associations and other interested parties to contribute their views to it.

In 2017 [Be the Business](#), an industry-led initiative backed by government, launched to help businesses across the UK benchmark their current level of productivity, access advice and utilise smart management training.

1. Details about the funding available, the application process and further guidance is available from the [Innovation Funding Service](#). There will be a total of £2 million available in this first call under Business Basics Fund.
2. To address the UK's productivity challenge, the government's Industrial Strategy focuses on the 5 foundations of productivity:
 - ideas
 - people
 - infrastructure
 - business environment
 - place

As part of our approach to improving the business environment, the government's recently launched a review of the actions that could be most effective in improving the productivity and growth of small and medium-sized businesses. The [call for evidence](#) closes on 6 July and can be responded to on GOV.UK .

3. Productivity is frequently defined as output per worker, or alternatively output per hour worked.
4. The UK has a strong business environment upon which we can build:
 - 1,100 businesses start every day in Britain and we are ranked as one of the best places in the world to start and grow a business
 - we have more than 31,000 Scale Up businesses
 - between 2012 and 2016 London attracted more tech investment than Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam combined

[Press release: Take the stress out the school holidays with Tax-Free Childcare](#)

Almost a third of parents in Great Britain (31%) feel stressed trying to arrange childcare for the school holidays according to a new YouGov poll out today.

The poll for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) also found that around a third of British parents (30%) worried about balancing their job and school holiday childcare. And more than half (54%) admitted they look forward to their

children returning to school in September.

But to help with summer childcare, working parents are being reminded that they can use Tax-Free Childcare (TFC), which is worth up to £2,000 per child per year, to pay for regulated holiday clubs during the school holidays.

More than 58,000 registered childcare providers including school, football, art and tennis clubs have signed up across the UK. Parents that pay into their account regularly can 'save up' their TFC allowance and use it for childcare during school holidays. The money can go towards a whole range of regulated childcare including nurseries, childminders, before and after school clubs, or holiday clubs.

Parents can apply for Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare* at the same time and are encouraged to do so before the end of June in time for next term. They can then both be used together, with Tax-Free Childcare payments applying to any additional childcare costs over and above the 30 hours support, throughout the year. Both offers are available to self-employed parents.

Parents can find out what government help is available and apply online by visiting the [Childcare Choices website](#). It includes a [Childcare Calculator](#) that compares all the government's childcare offers to check what works best for individual families.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Liz Truss, said:

Organising childcare for school holidays is important for parents. Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare help make things easier by cutting thousands of pounds from the childcare bills of working parents.

So I hope families across the country visit the Childcare Choices website to take advantage of the offer available from the Government, and enjoy the holidays.

Children and Families Minister, Nadhim Zahawi, added:

We are spending more than any other government on childcare because we want every child to get the best start in life.

We are supporting as many families as possible with access to high-quality, affordable childcare helping to put more money in their pockets and balancing work and family lives.

How Tax-Free Childcare works:

- Working parents can apply, through the childcare service, to open an online childcare account. For every £8 that families pay in, the government will make a top-up payment of an additional £2, up to a maximum of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children). This top up is added instantly and parents can then send electronic payments directly to their childcare providers. The maximum government top-up is £500 per quarter for each child, or £1,000 if the child is disabled.
- All registered childcare providers – whether nannies, nurseries, childminders or after school clubs – can sign up online now to receive parents' payments through Tax-Free Childcare.
- Parents need to sign back in every three months and confirm their details are up to date, to keep getting government top-ups.
- Tax-Free Childcare is replacing 'childcare vouchers', which is only available to parents if their employer offers it. Employer-Supported Childcare will be closing to new entrants on 4 October 2018, but parents who are already a member of a scheme will be able to remain in it as long as they remain with their employer and their employer continues to offer it. The tax and National Insurance exemption for workplace nurseries will remain in place. Parents moving from Employer-Supported Childcare to Tax-Free Childcare can still use childcare vouchers they've previously accrued.

How 30 hours free childcare works:

- 30 hours free childcare is for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds who can get 30 hours a week of childcare for 38 weeks of the year, a total of 1,140 hours per year, which can be used flexibly with one or more childcare provider. Some childcare providers will allow parents to spread fewer hours over more weeks. This offer is available in England*. This is a further 15 hours in addition to the universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- Parents can take up a 30 hours place the term after their child turns three and the date they receive a 30 hours code, whichever is later. Parents should apply in good time to get their 30 hours code, they can apply up to 16 weeks before their child turns three. We are encouraging eligible parents to apply for a code now in time for a September start. Parents already receiving the offer need to reconfirm they are eligible every three months.

An animation setting out the new childcare offer

[Childcare offer](#)

Notes for Editors

1. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 334 adults who are parents of children aged 16 and under from an overall sample of 1613 GB adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 21 and 22 May. The survey was carried out online.

2. 31% of British parents surveyed feel stressed trying to arrange childcare for the school holidays. 26% described feeling stressed before childcare arrangements have been organised, with the same percentage relieved when arrangements are made. 30% worry about balancing their job and school holiday childcare. 54% of parents admitted they look forward to their children returning to school.
 3. In 2019/20 the government will spend around £6 billion on childcare support.
 4. High resolution images of the Childcare Choices logo, infographic and website can be found [here](#)
 5. Follow HMRC's Press Office on Twitter @HMRCpressoffice
 6. [HMRC's Flickr channel](#)
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Press release: PM call with President Erdogan: 25 June 2018

This evening the Prime Minister called President Erdogan of Turkey to congratulate him on his victory in the Turkish Presidential elections.

The Prime Minister reiterated the importance of the bilateral relationship between the UK and Turkey and expressed her desire to continue working in partnership with President Erdogan and his government on our shared priorities including security cooperation, trade and investment, the situation in Syria and supporting a political settlement in Cyprus.

The Prime Minister thanked President Erdogan for Turkey's support on the Chemical Weapons Convention Special Session and the leaders looked forward to meeting at the NATO Summit next month.

Press release: PM meeting with Donald Tusk: 25 June 2018

PM meeting with Donald Tusk: 25 June 2018 – GOV.UK

Prime Minister Theresa May met European Council President Donald Tusk at Downing Street today.



A Downing Street spokesperson said:

In a meeting at Downing Street, Prime Minister Theresa May and European Council President Donald Tusk discussed this week's upcoming European Council meeting in Brussels.

The Prime Minister said it would be an opportunity to discuss a number of important issues, including migration and security and defence ahead of the NATO Summit.

On the Brexit negotiations, the PM looked forward to discussing the continuing progress we have made on issues relating to the UK's withdrawal and work to build towards a deep future partnership.

The PM said the UK will be setting out more detail on the UK's vision for the future relationship in a White Paper after the June Council.

The Prime Minister and President Tusk also looked forward to the Western Balkans Summit which will take place in London next month.

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Thank you for your feedback