

News story: Tech firms win prize to help UK's renters onto the housing ladder

- Rent is not routinely recognised in credit scores, making it harder for renters to get a mortgage
- A share of £2 million of government funding has been awarded to three innovative start-ups with a solution
- The winners offer apps for renters to record and share their rent payment data, helping boost their credit score

Renters unable to get a mortgage because of their lack of a credit rating will be able to boost their chances through one of three new start-ups backed by the government today (15 August 2018).

CreditLadder, Bud, and RentalStep have each won a share of a £2 million prize fund, as part of the government's Rent Recognition Challenge. The Dragons' Den style challenge tasked entrepreneurs to create a simple way for renters to record and share their rent payment data, to help them improve their credit score. The three winners will use their funding to further develop their businesses.

John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury said:

Monthly rent is often the biggest expense that people face. Yet most lenders are unable to take it into account when working up a credit score. Three pioneering start-ups have found a solution, and we're giving them the investment and support they need to help millions of renters across the country achieve their dream of owning a home.

Launched in December 2017, the Rent Recognition Challenge provided an initial round of grant funding to six budding businesses to help turn their ideas into a workable product. An expert panel of judges then whittled the six down to three, who today receive a final package of government funding.

Charlotte Crosswell, CEO of Innovate Finance and one of the challenge's judges said:

We are delighted to support the Rent Recognition Challenge and address this important issue of helping renters as they look to establish a credit history, helping their journey towards securing a mortgage in the future. The Fintech sector has proven it can provide credible, innovative solutions and we are delighted that government has recognised that Fintech companies have a significant

role to play in this market.

Further Information

- Currently, a history of meeting rent payments is not routinely recognised in credit scores, and is not commonly considered when banks conduct mortgage affordability assessments – creating a barrier to getting onto the housing ladder
- The three winning start-ups are:
 1. Bud: Bud is building an AI driven rental recognition tool. It will allow banks to integrate it into their apps so that people can use their rental history to help them do things like apply for a mortgage.
 2. CreditLadder: CreditLadder allows tenants to report their rent payments. Landlords and Letting Agents can also introduce their tenants to the platform.
 3. RentalStep: RentalStep is a landlord-tenant matching platform, which allows landlords to purchase a tenancy management service through the platform, and rental payments to be tracked and reported.

Notice: SY4 5SL, Bentley Growers Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Bentley Growers Limited
- Installation name: Bentley Farm Poultry Unit
- Permit number: EPR/RP3135EW/V003

Notice: PE30 2HY, Greenworld Sales Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Greenworld Sales Limited
 - Installation name: Estuary Farm Recycling Facility
 - Permit number: EPR/HP3096NJ/V002
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[Press release: James Brokenshire plans increase in garden towns](#)

Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP calls for an increase in garden towns in England, as he announces the new garden communities programme.

The programme will see more high quality homes built and green spaces created, expanding on government's plans for more locally-led developments.

The garden towns push in England is part of government's clear ambition to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s.

Councils across England and private developers who have secured support from local authorities will be able to apply for a place on the programme.

The winning bidders will receive tailored advice and potential grant funding for help with staffing or environmental assessments; part of the planning process for new garden towns.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

This plan is about the government working with councils and developers to get great homes in keeping with beautiful areas in England.

We want to help local authorities build strong and vibrant communities where people want to live, work, and raise families.

Our garden communities programme already has the potential to provide over 200,000 new homes by 2050, and we want to go further.

Strong community involvement and engagement will be at the heart of judging garden community proposals; ensuring developments reflect local character while also designing beautiful green spaces near homes.

Garden communities can take the form of new villages, towns or cities and have the potential to deliver well designed homes at an increased scale, with projects ranging in size from 10,000 to 40,000 homes.

This [prospectus](#) is the latest step by government to get Britain building,

with 23 locally-led garden communities already receiving funding support, with the potential to deliver over 200,000 homes by 2050.

The launch today signals the start of a 3 month application process, with successful garden community proposals being announced later in the New Year.

Last year 217,000 homes were built, marking the biggest increase in housing supply in England for almost a decade.

A garden town is a development of more than 10,000 homes. Garden villages are smaller settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes.

Notice: WR7 4NU, A & C Poultry Ltd: environmental permit draft decision advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. In some cases they also consult on draft decisions for environmental permits. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- the Environment Agency's proposed decision and the reasons and considerations on which they've based this
- additional relevant information available since the application was advertised
- any information or guidance provided by the Secretary of State relevant to the application