

## **Almost 72,500 affordable homes delivered but we're just getting going**

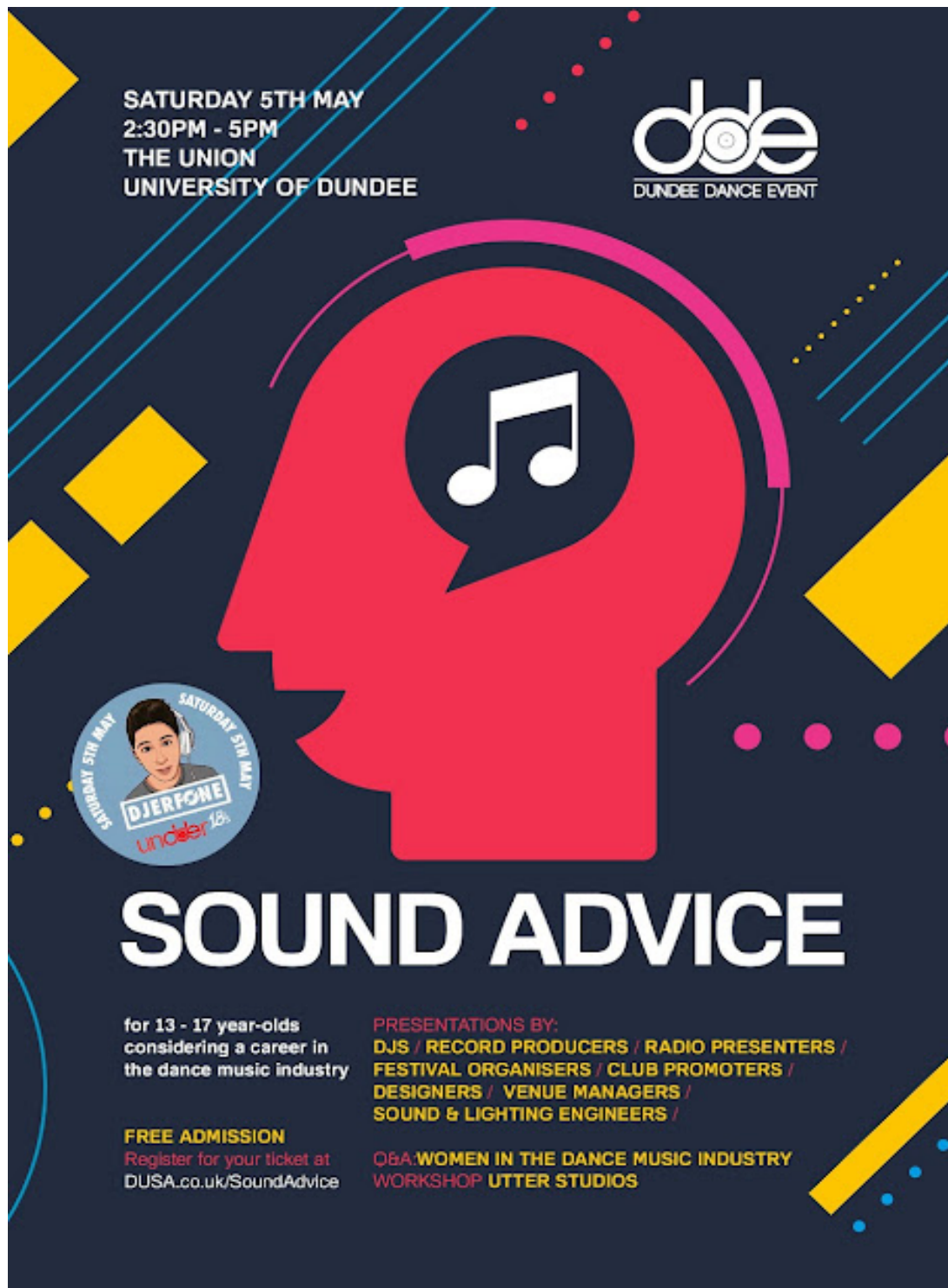
Having a home of your own really matters. We all want somewhere warm and safe to go back to at the end of a long day, to bring up children, to make new memories or grow old with our partners. A home is where much of our life happens.

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## **Sound Advice event**



Sound Advice is a free event and the first of its kind for 13 – 17 year olds considering a career in the dance music or events industry

Held on Saturday 5th May at the University of Dundee, Sound Advice features presentations and workshops from dance music industry professionals. Your pupils will receive advice on the key disciplines of what is now a multi-billion dollar, global industry; from record producers and DJs; venue managers and festival organisers; to graphic designers and lighting engineers. In addition, there will be a Q&A discussing how women can succeed in what is still a male dominated industry.

Later that evening there will be an opportunity for some pupils to spend an hour behind the scenes at the DDE Under 18's Dance Party.

This is a free event, with everyone giving their time for free in order to celebrate 2018 Year of Young People.

For more information and for pupils to register for their free tickets go to [www.dusa.co.uk/soundadvice](http://www.dusa.co.uk/soundadvice).

Please note attendance is limited to 120 and the free tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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## What use should the public sector have for the private sector?

Here are the slides from my recent All Souls Lecture on privatisation:

### **The Big Issue**

- The big issue of public / private partnership, contracting out and privatization is back on the agenda.
- The government needs to clarify the role it sees for the private sector and make the case for why it needs private involvement in the public services.
- The public sector under both Labour and Conservative make extensive use of the private sectors as
  - Supplier of goods and services to public service
  - As adviser
  - As financier of public provision
  - As provider of public services

### **Ten Types of public service**

- Public sector monopolies employing public sector staff using public sector assets, providing the service free at the point of use. This is some people's idea of a public service in general but is a limited case. The nuclear deterrent and the army are two good examples.
- Private sector companies competing to supply good or services, using private sector assets, employing private sector staff and charging the customers. This is the most normal form of public service in the UK for the supply of everything from bread to medicines over the counter.

### **Ten Types of public service**

These are the main eight hybrid types:

- Public sector monopolies employing public staff and assets that charge the end users the cost and a mark up – planning departments, the grant of a variety of licences, the BBC etc.

- Public sector monopolies that employ private sector staff and assets to provide a free service – this would be a contracted out service like domestic refuse collection.
- Public sector monopolies employing private sector staff and assets and charging the end user – not common, but could include a local monopoly leisure facility or toll bridge for example.

### **Ten Types of public service**

- Competitive services provided free by the public sector with choice to the end user using public sector staff and assets – schools etc.
- Competitive services provided free by the public sector using private sector staff and assets – the GP service.
- Competitive services provided by the public sector but charging the end user – e.g. public sector leisure facilities.
- Private sector monopolies using private sector staff and assets and charging the end user – these are rare but include regional domestic water monopolies.
- Private sector competitive businesses employing private sector staff and assets that do not charge the end user – free newspapers, free to air commercial TV etc.

### **Privatisation**

Privatisation describes a range of different policies. There are two possible main ingredients:

1. Transfer of assets and risks from public sector to private, as with the sale of trading companies like the water business or BT.
2. Introduction of competition into former public sector monopolies, as with the licencing of competitors to BT and to British Rail trains.

In order to qualify as a privatisation there does have to be a genuine and substantial transfer of risk from public to private.

There is usually money passing from the private sector to the public when they buy the assets, but you can have privatisations for negative consideration where the assets and business are heavily lossmaking.

It is best when privatizing to break monopolies, but this is not always done.

### **Privatisation**

The capital provided by the private sector will usually be dearer than the government raising it through a bond issue on its own balance sheet. So why might it still be cheaper for service users and better for taxpayers?

1. The private sector may well have better capital discipline, controlling the cost and the time it takes to build new facilities.
2. The private sector may be better at employing people, creating a higher wage higher productivity environment which is also better value for service users.

3. If a mistake is made with an investment private sector shareholders have to meet the losses, not taxpayers.
4. The private sector may innovate and grow the business, finding new revenue streams and activities which supplement the core activity.

### **What happened as a result of the major privatisations of the 1980s-1990s?**

- The privatized railway reversed years of decline in the use of the railway and turned it into a growth business. Labour blamed a couple of bad accidents on privatisation, though the safety record was no worse than BR. They renationalised most of it.
- The electricity industry switched substantially from coal to gas and greatly raised the fuel efficiency of its output, driving prices lower before the Labour government turned it into a heavily regulated and controlled activity.
- The telecoms industry was transformed by competition and private investment, breaking free from the shortages and lack of innovation of the old nationalized industry. The huge growth of the City would not have been possible with monopoly BT rationing service.
- The water industry modernised and spent more money on investment, but gains were limited by the lack of permitted competition.

### **Could we have more private infrastructure?**

1. Telecoms – definitely Yes, and we are
2. Roads – problems with road pricing when the bulk of the system is free and will remain free
3. Railways – lack of investment return without guaranteed subsidy
4. Energy – Yes, but need for regulatory clarity and consistency

### **Why is so little private infrastructure started when so many say they want to invest?**

1. Slow pace of planning and licences for large projects
2. Uncertainty over what an infrastructure investment looks like
3. Arguments over how much risk the private sector can and should take

### **What other forms of partnership make sense?**

1. Design, build, operate schemes
2. Contracted out services
3. Provision of specialist services by private sector for public

#### 4. General supply

#### **How far should general supply go? The case of medicines**

1. Research and development of new treatments
2. Manufacture of the drug
3. Supply to NHS central warehouse
4. Supply to ward or surgery just in time
5. Supply direct to out patient
6. Role in repeat prescription whilst preserving control of Dr

#### **The world of the internet**

Now the public sector is so reliant on private sector internet technology, service provision and data storage what does this do to the definition of public service and to the role of the public sector official?

1. Data generation
2. Data storage
3. Data processing
4. Data use

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## **Remarks by President Donald Tusk at the press conference of the Brdo-Brijuni summit**

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Good evening. Let me first of all thank you President Ivanov for hosting us. It is a true pleasure and honour to be involved in the Brdo-Brijuni process.

Let me also acknowledge the relentless efforts of Presidents Grabar-Kitarović

and Pahor and their personal engagement in this process. Reconciliation in this part of Europe is important for the whole continent, for our stability, peace and prosperity.

I will limit myself to only a few remarks.

This week I have been travelling through the entire region. I came to the Western Balkans with a clear message from the leaders of all European Union Member States: we remain steadfast in our offer of a European perspective to the region. You can count on us.

And these are not empty words. These are hard facts. Just an example: if we look at the Western Balkan countries' total trade, 73% is with the EU. Twelve times bigger than China. 15 times more than Russia.

But of course the EU is not only about trade, investment and money. It is first and foremost about what kind of societies we want to be. Having lived the first part of my life under a communist regime, I have no doubt whatsoever about the best direction for citizens. But this is a choice, a decision, and work that only you in the region can undertake. Of course with the full support of your friends in the European Union.

Today, we discussed the importance of going further and enhancing connectivity within the region and with the European Union. We will continue these discussions next month in Sofia.

To conclude: positive developments are also possible in the Western Balkans. We have seen that recently with the border demarcation agreement between Pristina and Podgorica, as well as the Treaty on Friendship between Skopje and Sofia. We need more such positive developments.

During my roundtrip in the region, capital by capital, I have again become a cautious optimist. It is possible that the history of the Balkans, a kind of a never ending horror movie can turn into an Oscar winning production with "a happy end".

What I heard today from Korea and what I have experienced here in the Balkans in the last days should be a positive memento to all: that the impossible can become possible, and that it depends entirely on the good will and courage of individual people. Thank you.

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## **News story: Defence Secretary**

# announces latest wave of cadet units in schools

Schools across the UK will benefit from the latest round of openings, including three in East Anglia, two in the East Midlands, four in Greater London, one in the North East, four in the North West, one in the South East, six in the West Midlands, three in Yorkshire & Humberside, one in Scotland and one in Wales.

The announcement came as the Defence Secretary had the opportunity to meet cadets at Phoenix Collegiate School in West Bromwich and see first-hand the new skills that students have gained.

Speaking at the event, Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Being a cadet offers students unrivalled opportunities to develop new skills, enjoy unforgettable life experiences, and be inspired by our world class Armed Forces.

I'm delighted to announce a new round of cadet units in schools across the UK, showing our commitment to ensure students from all backgrounds have the chance to fulfil their potential.

The cadets I met today impressed me with their confidence, problem solving and teamwork – skills that will stand them in good stead in the future.

Phoenix Collegiate was approved in the last wave of cadet units, and has been on parade now for over a year.

The latest round of cadet units ensures the Government remains on target to have a total of 500 running in the UK by 2020. 418 cadet units are already up and running and this latest wave takes the total approved units to 453. Many are opened in less prosperous areas where opportunities for cadet units were previously limited.

The Cadet Expansion Programme is backed by £50 million funding from Libor fines, which covers set up costs, uniforms, equipment and training. The benefits of the cadet experience were highlighted in an independent report published by Northamptonshire University, which found that being a cadet can increase social mobility and help disadvantaged children reach their potential.

Robert Goodwill MP is also conducting independent research into how schools can best utilise their cadet units; assessing the benefits of having a military ethos and values in schools provides to its pupils. The findings will be completed by the end of September 2018.