

News story: Youngsters Learn about careers on offer in growing Earth Observation sector

The youngsters, aged 12-15, enjoyed talks from experts in Earth Observation, including the Environment Agency, the European Space Agency and the Satellite Applications Catapult, as well as the UK Space Agency.

The event, at the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Harwell, also included a "Careers Carousel", which gave the children a chance to speak to a dozen organisations about the potential jobs on offer.

Space is one of the UK's fastest growing sectors in the UK and it is estimated an additional 30,000 new staff will be required by 2030. The latest figures from the 'UK space industry: size and health report' show that Earth Observation services, such as data for climate change and agriculture, is a significant growth area, supporting £92 billion of GDP and growing at a rate of 25% per year.

Beth Greenaway, Head of Earth Observation at the UK Space Agency, said:

Earth Observation is a rapidly growing area of the space sector so it was fantastic to have the opportunity to tell so many young people about the huge variety of exciting careers available to them.

Our aim is that over the next decade innovative new technologies developed by the UK Earth Observation space sector will make substantial contributions to economic growth, new jobs and societal benefit. It's vital that we have enthusiastic young people coming through to help continue to realise the potential of Earth Observation.

The Government's modern industrial strategy is supporting the space sector, including through a £50 million programme to enable the launch of small satellites, which could be used in the future for Earth Observation missions. Last week, Orbex unveiled its 'Prime' rocket that could be used to launch such satellites from a proposed spaceport in Sutherland, Scotland.

The students attending the careers event were from Didcot Girls' School, King Alfred's Academy in Wantage, John Mason School in Abingdon and Space Studio, in London.

Companies taking part included Geocento Ltd, Deimos Space and Telespazio VEGA UK, which has just secured new contracts worth €12 million over the next three years. These new contracts are from the European Space Agency and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts – both international

partnership bodies we will remain members of. The contracts cover climate services and quality assurance of Earth Observation data, from some of the most cutting edge new commercial satellite mission.

Graham Turnock, CEO of the UK Space Agency, said:

These new contract wins are an excellent example of where the UK is taking leadership on the global stage, including through our membership of the European Space Agency, and Copernicus in the exploitation and use of high quality Earth Observation and Climate services.

This should enable significant impact and growth in the form of applications and space enabled services to the wider user community, and we congratulate Telespazio VEGA UK on these important success stories.

By 2040 it is expected that satellite Earth Observations will provide the data to underpin mass market and business applications, global cutting-edge science, and also policy and operational decision making.

News story: Significant progress on better rail deal for football fans

- DfT working with industry, football authorities and British Transport Police to deliver more flexible ticketing and safer trains for fans.
- Rail Minister to meet all partners shortly to drive forward potential trials on match days as quickly as possible.
- Focus on improved affordability and security aimed at encouraging more people to use the railways.

A fairer and more flexible deal for football fans who are affected when matches are rapidly rescheduled is “within reach”, Rail Minister Andrew Jones announced today (14 February 2019).

The Department for Transport has reached an agreement with football authorities, British Transport Police (BTP) and the Rail Delivery Group (RDG), representing train companies and Network Rail, that will see the Premier League working with the industry to create a package of measures aimed at improving the railways for all users on match days.

It will focus on encouraging more people to travel by train to football games, and will also ensure that passengers should not have to pay more for their train tickets in the event a match is rescheduled for TV.

The Premier League is currently drawing up an agreement to underpin this commitment. When confirmed by train operators and football clubs, trials will be launched to understand how future schemes can deliver more flexibility over train tickets for fans, improve stewarding on trains and lead to closer interaction between clubs and the BTP, ensuring better support and security on matchdays.

Rail Minister Andrew Jones said:

Football is all about passionate fans, and the last thing loyal supporters deserve is to pay more when matches are rescheduled at the last minute.

That's why I'm delighted that the government has helped secure a vital agreement that will bring together clubs, operators and British Transport Police. Significant changes are now within reach, which can ensure even more people use our railways to get to games and improve the experience for all passengers on match days.

To drive this forward, I will be meeting with the Premier League and rail industry shortly to ensure our focus is on delivering a safe, secure and fair railway that works for fans, passengers, the clubs and the operators.

William Bush, Premier League Executive Director, said:

We are working closely with the government on an extensive range of schemes, and we are confident there are some truly transformational projects that we can take forward.

Both the Premier League and government are committed to working hard for a fairer, affordable, safer deal for football fans. We continue to work with rail industry leaders on proposals and look forward to setting out a joint way forward which will improve the travelling experience for fans on matchdays.

BTP Assistant Chief Constable Robin Smith said:

We fully endorse these discussions and are delighted to work alongside the government and the Premier League with a view to improving the travelling experience for all passengers particularly on match days.

Quite rightly the railway is a popular method of transport for fans and that's why we are determined to work together to ensure journeys are a positive experience that don't require police intervention. We're really looking forward to and are excited by the next steps in this process.

Paul Plummer, RDG Chief Executive, said:

It's not fair that last minute changes to the match day schedule can increase costs for travelling fans which is why train companies are working together to see how we can increase flexibility and give people more certainty about their ticket.

This has to be alongside the ongoing, cross-industry work to tackle anti-social behaviour from an extreme minority of people on match days so that we can ensure everyone travelling can have a comfortable journey.

The government is focused on delivering successful trials as quickly as possible. If successful, these could then be rolled out more widely to cover fans across the country.

Press release: Homes England funds first homes through local authority accelerated construction programme

Up to 670 new homes are to be built on three sites in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield, South Hertfordshire, supported by £10.6 million funding from Homes England.

The funding has been awarded to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and is the first to be agreed through the Government's £450 million Accelerated Construction Programme.

The programme was launched to accelerate the delivery of local authority housing schemes and encourages the use of innovative construction methods and a wider range of builders, in particular small and medium sized companies.

The three sites to benefit from the funding include two Town Centre sites in Hatfield and one in Welwyn Garden City. Each will incorporate the use modern construction methods, to minimise onsite disruption in the town centre areas and speed up the delivery of the new homes.

Work is due to start on the first site at Hatfield Town Centre in June 2019, with each development including a target of 30 percent affordable housing.

Stephen Kinsella, Executive Director for Land at Homes England, said: "I'm delighted to see this first accelerated construction grant agreement being signed. The funding will enable Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to develop their ambitious proposals for these three sites and will help to deliver much

needed new homes for local people.

“The plans will prioritise the use of modern methods of construction including panellised and hybrid construction which will reduce time on site and minimise the impact on the local community, whilst delivering precision engineered high quality homes.”

Cllr Duncan Bell, the Council’s Executive Member for Resources, said: “Creating vibrant, bustling town centres that are fit for the future is at the heart of our vision for each of these sites. The funding from Homes England means that we can now undertake the work necessary to get these sites ready for us to build new homes and we are looking forward to developing detailed designs and plans to share with the community.”

Cllr Tony Kingsbury, Leader of the Council, said: “We are really proud to be the first local authority to secure funding from this programme. The schemes will not only deliver much needed new homes for the area, but will also bring increased footfall to our town centres and support the local economy to thrive.”

ENDS

For more information contact Kate Hall, Communications Officer at Homes England 0115 852 6900 or 07967 782252 kate.hall@homesengland.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

- The £450 million Accelerated Construction Programme includes the Greater London Authority areas.

Homes England is the new housing delivery organisation that has been created to adopt a more commercial approach to respond to the long term housing challenges facing this country. The new, expanded agency will play a far bigger role in investing in supply and intervening in the market to help deliver 300,000 homes a year by the middle of the next decade.

For more information visit our [home page](#) or follow us on Twitter @HomesEngland

Welwyn Garden City

In Welwyn Garden City, the 14 acre town centre north site between John Lewis and the bus station will receive around £6.1m. The funding will enable the development and expansion of existing high-level plans outlined in an agreed Supplementary Planning Document. More ambitious proposals for this area have the potential to deliver up to 410 homes, retail space and better infrastructure in the heart of the garden city.

Hatfield

In Hatfield two pivotal sites in the heart of the town centre will receive nearly £4.5m.

This will help bring forward plans for 1 and 3-9 Town Centre, earmarked for new homes, shops and restaurants, with the remainder being used to develop plans for new homes on Link Drive. Both sites are areas of opportunity identified in the Hatfield 2030+ Renewal Framework, and their development is a crucial step in the ongoing regeneration plans to make the town centre a more attractive, vibrant place which has already seen £15m invested by the council.

[Press release: New partnership unlocks land for development across England](#)

A new partnership has been announced by Homes England and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation today to develop land being released by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The partnership brings together the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), combining its own in-house expertise with the skills, people and finance of Homes England to help unlock the constraints, create greater certainty and speed up the construction of homes.

Nick Walkley, Chief Executive from Homes England and Graham Dalton, Chief Executive of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation have sealed the partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Nick Walkley, Chief Executive of Homes England said: "This partnership provides another great opportunity to intervene in the market – and the sites will contribute towards the 300,000 homes needed each year to meet the growing demand. We are pleased to be using our skills and resource to work closely with DIO on the delivery of these brownfield sites.

"Through the Memorandum of Understanding we will be able to work with local authorities and communities to progress schemes faster and more efficiently providing homes where they are needed."

The land will remain in the ownership of MoD throughout the project whilst Homes England prepares the site for development through planning and investment with governance from DIO.

Graham Dalton, Chief Executive of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation said: "DIO and Homes England have agreed to work together to develop sites for housing in an arrangement that will maximise value for the public purse.

"We are pleased to be entering into this partnership with Homes England for the benefit of local communities. The combined expertise will ensure sites no longer needed for Defence can be developed into much needed housing while delivering value for money."#

The first seven sites under the new partnering agreement have also been announced today. These are: Claro & Deverell Barracks in Ripon, North Yorkshire; RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire; MOD Site 4 in Stafford, MDPGA Wethersfield in Braintree, Essex, Swynnerton Training Camp in Stone, Staffordshire, Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham, Lincolnshire and Chetwynd Barracks in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire.

ENDS

For more information contact Kate Hall, Communications Officer at Homes England 0115 852 6900 or 07967 782252 kate.hall@homesengland.gov.uk

Notes to Editors:

About Homes England

Homes England is the new housing delivery organisation that has been created to adopt a more commercial approach to respond to the long term housing challenges facing this country. The new, expanded agency will play a far bigger role in investing in supply and intervening in the market to help deliver 300,000 homes a year by the middle of the next decade.

Homes England will act differently from its predecessor, bringing together money, land, expertise and planning and compulsory purchase powers to accelerate the supply of new homes and address affordability issues in areas of highest demand.

For more information visit [our main page](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

About Defence Infrastructure Organisation

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), part of the Ministry of Defence, plays a vital role in conserving and maintaining the Defence estate as well as supporting our Armed Forces to live, work, train and deploy on operations.

For more information visit the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) [website](#). or follow on Twitter @mod_dio

[Press release: £250 million of housing deals struck to deliver tens of thousands of homes](#)

- £250 million investment to deliver almost 25,000 more homes, including £157 million for housing infrastructure in Cumbria and Devon
- New partnership agreed will see over 10,000 homes built on Ministry of

Defence land

- First deal agreed to deliver homes at speed under the accelerated construction programme

Nearly £250 million of housing deals will deliver almost 25,000 more homes, the Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP has announced today (14 February 2019).

As part of this, the government will be investing £157 million in infrastructure such as building roads and putting natural green space alongside developments.

A new partnership has also been struck by the government's housing accelerator Homes England to build over 10,000 properties on Ministry of Defence land on 7 military bases across the country.

In London, more than 1,500 new homes will be built at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park thanks to a £78 million loan helping to fund the development.

This is all part of the department's drive to make the housing market work for everyone and deliver much-needed homes across the country.

The Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, said:

We delivered 222,000 homes last year which is the highest number in a decade, but we must keep upping our game.

We are invoking the spirit of Britain's post-war push to build as we strive to hit our target of 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s, for the first time since the days of Harold Macmillan.

By investing in infrastructure, freeing up public sector land and offering targeted loans we are making the housing market work.

These deals struck today will help us build almost 25,000 more homes – which is another symbolic step towards our homebuilding targets.

Ministry of Defence housing agreement

Homes England have agreed a partnership with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to develop land being released by the Ministry of Defence.

Over 10,000 homes will be built on 7 different sites – with the potential for more surplus army land to be used in the future.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood said:

As we work to make our military bases more modern and efficient,

it's important that former MOD land is used in a way which serves local residents and the economy.

This new partnership underlines our commitment to helping housebuilding in this country and will provide good value for money to taxpayers.

Infrastructure investment

The government confirmed £157 million will be invested under the Housing Infrastructure Fund in schemes in Devon and Cumbria.

The money will pay for a new motorway link road between south Carlisle and the M6, unlocking up to 10,000 new homes at St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

In Devon, £55 million will be spent on road improvements and other infrastructure so that 2,500 homes can be built to the south west of Exeter.

Olympic homes for London

Two new neighbourhoods of 1,500 homes will be built in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park following a £78 million loan from Homes England.

The loan is part of the government's £4.5 billion Home Building Fund, which provides development and infrastructure finance to home builders.

It is anticipated that the first phase of the development will be completed in summer 2021, with work at East Wick and Sweetwater being fully completed by 2028.

Work has already begun on phase one of the site, which will include 130 new affordable homes and 105 for private rental, as well as more than 33,000 square feet of business and creative space.

Modern methods to build homes

Up to 650 new homes will be built on 3 sites in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield, Hertfordshire, using Modern Methods of Construction – which mean properties can go up more quickly.

The scheme – which is receiving £10.6 million of funding from Homes England – is the first to benefit from the government's £450 million Accelerated Construction Programme.

Work is due to start on the first site in Hatfield town centre in June.

Further information

The Homes England partnership agreement with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation will see sites developed at:

- Claro and Deverell Barracks in Ripon, North Yorkshire
- RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire
- MOD Site 4 in Stafford
- MDPGA Wethersfield in Braintree, Essex
- Swynnerton Training Camp in Stone, Staffordshire
- Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham, Lincolnshire
- Chetwynd Barracks in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire