

# Press release: Cash boost to help build 200,000 homes in new garden towns

A £9 million cash injection to speed up the locally-led building of new garden towns and villages across the country has been announced today (13 February 2019).

The Garden Communities project is expected to deliver 200,000 properties on large sites by 2050, and the latest funding will help get 21 sites ready for development.

The government project is helping ambitious councils get well-designed homes built on large sites, and the money will help pay for master-planning and technical studies.

Work is already underway on 10,000 properties across the country in garden towns and villages, with 36,000 expected to be underway or completed by 2022.

Housing Minister Kit Malthouse MP said:

We have not built enough homes in this country for the last three decades, and we are turning that around as we work towards our target to build 300,000 properties a year by the mid-2020s.

This £9 million funding boost is giving councils the support and cash injection they need so they can finish planning new developments and get diggers on site.

The developments being funded include a 2,000 home site for custom and self-builders in Bicester, on land purchased by the council from the Ministry of Defence.

It also includes developments in Basingstoke, Didcot, Taunton, Harlow-Gilston and across Northamptonshire where work is already underway on the first phase of developments.

The funding will be administered by Homes England.

Place	Capacity award	Homes
Aylesbury	£420,000	15,000
Basingstoke	£695,000	10,000
Bicester	£770,000	13,000
Harlow & Gilston	£715,000	24,000
North Essex (Colchester, Tendring & Braintree)	£1,000,000	43,000
North Northants (Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough)	£725,000	33,000

Place	Capacity award	Homes
Otterpool Park, Folkestone	£1,250,000	10,000
Taunton	£550,000	15,000
Bailrigg	£100,000	3,500
Culm, Mid Devon	£300,000	5,000
Dunton Hills	£100,000	3,500
Halsnead	£300,000	1,589
Handforth	£150,000	1,650
Infinity, Derbyshire	£150,000	3,200
Longmarston	£300,000	3,500
Longcross	£125,000	1,700
West Oxfordshire	£150,000	2,200
Tresham	£300,000	1,500
Welbourne	£300,000	6,000
West Carclaze	£300,000	1,500
St Cuthbert's, Carlisle	£300,000	10,000

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## [Press release: UK House Price Index for December 2018](#)

The December data shows:

- on average, house prices have risen by 0.2% since November 2018
- there has been an annual price rise of 2.5%, which makes the average property in the UK valued at £230,776

### **England**

In England, the December data shows, on average, house prices have risen by 0.3% since November 2018. The annual price rise of 2.3% takes the average property value to £247,886.

The regional data for England indicates that:

- the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber both experienced the greatest monthly price rise, up by 2.0%
- the East of England saw the most significant monthly price fall, down by 1.1%
- the West Midlands experienced the greatest annual price rise, up by 5.2%
- the North East saw the largest annual price fall, down by 1.0%

## Price change by region for England

Region	Average price December 2018	Monthly change % since November 2018
East Midlands	£192,748	-0.2
East of England	£289,602	-1.1
London	£473,822	0.1
North East	£128,756	-0.4
North West	£164,352	0.4
South East	£324,729	0.1
South West	£256,427	-0.3
West Midlands	£200,388	2.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	£165,119	2.0

## Repossession sales by volume for England

The lowest number of repossession sales in October 2018 was in the East of England.

The highest number of repossession sales in October 2018 was in the North West.

Repossession sales	October 2018
East Midlands	44
East of England	14
London	44
North East	84
North West	138
South East	56
South West	32
West Midlands	52
Yorkshire and the Humber	75
England	539

## Average price by property type for England

Property type	December 2018	December 2017	Difference %
Detached	£376,076	£364,892	3.1
Semi-detached	£232,619	£225,102	3.3
Terraced	£200,569	£195,761	2.5
Flat/maisonette	£226,247	£227,130	-0.4
All	£247,886	£242,378	2.3

## Funding and buyer status for England

Transaction type	Average price December 2018	Annual price change % since December 2017	Monthly price change % since November 2018
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Transaction type	Average price December 2018	Annual price change % since December 2017	Monthly price change % since November 2018
Cash	£233,523	2.2	0.3
Mortgage	£255,124	2.3	0.3
First-time buyer	£207,526	1.7	0.3
Former owner occupier	£281,914	2.8	0.3

### Building status for England

Building status	Average price October 2018	Annual price change % since October 2017	Monthly price change % since September 2018
New build	£311,953	5.2	2.3
Existing resold property	£243,997	2.4	-0.4

\*Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

### London

London shows, on average, house prices have risen by 0.1% since November 2018. An annual price fall of 0.6% takes the average property value to £473,822.

### Average price by property type for London

Property type	December 2018	December 2017	Difference %
Detached	£912,343	£899,100	1.5
Semi-detached	£588,078	£573,194	2.6
Terraced	£496,244	£489,692	1.3
Flat/maisonette	£411,950	£421,917	-2.4
All	£473,822	£476,848	-0.6

### Funding and buyer status for London

Transaction type	Average price December 2018	Annual price change % since December 2017	Monthly price change % since November 2018
Cash	£496,483	-1.4	-0.4
Mortgage	£466,885	-0.4	0.2
First-time buyer	£412,679	-1.3	0.0
Former owner occupier	£537,813	0.2	0.3

### Building status for London

<b>Building status</b>	<b>Average price October 2018</b>	<b>Annual price change % since October 2017</b>	<b>Monthly price change % since September 2018</b>
New build	£502,915	1.0	3.1
Existing resold property	£478,869	-0.3	0.5

\*Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

## Wales

Wales shows, on average, house prices have risen by 0.8% since November 2018. An annual price rise of 5.2% takes the average property value to £161,845.

There were 56 repossession sales for Wales in October 2018.

### Average price by property type for Wales

<b>Property type</b>	<b>December 2018</b>	<b>December 2017</b>	<b>Difference %</b>
Detached	£245,785	£231,705	6.1
Semi-detached	£156,068	£148,069	5.4
Terraced	£124,968	£118,993	5.0
Flat/maisonette	£113,926	£111,120	2.5
All	£161,845	£153,791	5.2

### Funding and buyer status for Wales

<b>Transaction type</b>	<b>Average price December 2018</b>	<b>Annual price change % since December 2017</b>	<b>Monthly price change % since November 2018</b>
Cash	£157,825	5.2	1.1
Mortgage	£164,228	5.3	0.6
First-time buyer	£139,487	4.8	0.6
Former owner occupier	£188,008	5.7	0.9

### Building status for Wales

<b>Building status</b>	<b>Average price October 2018</b>	<b>Annual price change % since October 2017</b>	<b>Monthly price change % since September 2018</b>
New build	£218,225	8.1	2.3
Existing resold property	£157,930	3.8	-0.1

\*Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

[Access the full UK HPI](#)

UK house prices rose by 2.5% in the year to December 2018, down from 2.7% in the year to November 2018.

The [UK Property Transaction Statistics for December 2018](#) showed that on a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of transactions on residential properties with a value of £40,000 or greater was 102,330. This is 3.6% higher compared with a year ago. Between November and December 2018, transactions fell by 0.1%.

House prices grew fastest in Wales and in the West Midlands region, increasing by 5.2% in the year to December 2018. House prices in London fell by 0.6% in the year to December 2018. London house prices have been falling over the year since July 2018.

See the [economic statement](#).

## Notes to editors

1. The UK House Price Index (HPI) is published on the second or third Wednesday of each month with Northern Ireland figures updated quarterly. The January 2019 UK HPI will be published at 9.30am on Wednesday 20 March 2019. See [calendar of release dates](#).
2. We have made some changes to improve the accuracy of the UK HPI. We are not publishing average price and percentage change for new builds and existing resold property as done previously because there are not currently enough new build transactions to provide a reliable result. This means that in this month's UK HPI reports, new builds and existing resold property are reported in line with the sales volumes currently available.
3. The UK HPI revision period has been extended to 13 months, following a review of the revision policy (see [calculating the UK HPI](#) section 4.4). This ensures the data used is more comprehensive.
4. Sales volume data is also available by property status (new build and existing property) and funding status (cash and mortgage) in our [downloadable data tables](#). Transactions involving the creation of a new register, such as new builds, are more complex and require more time to process. Read [revisions to the UK HPI data](#).
5. Revision tables have been introduced for England and Wales within the downloadable data. Tables will be available in csv format. See [about the UK HPI](#) for more information.
6. Data for the UK HPI is provided by HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and

Research Agency and the Valuation Office Agency.

7. The UK HPI is calculated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. It applies a hedonic regression model that uses the various sources of data on property price, in particular HM Land Registry's Price Paid Dataset, and attributes to produce estimates of the change in house prices each month. Find out more about the methodology used from the [ONS](#) and [Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency](#).
8. The [UK Property Transaction statistics](#) are taken from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) monthly estimates of the number of residential and non-residential property transactions in the UK and its constituent countries. The number of property transactions in the UK is highly seasonal, with more activity in the summer months and less in the winter. This regular annual pattern can sometimes mask the underlying movements and trends in the data series so HMRC also presents the UK aggregate transaction figures on a seasonally adjusted basis. Adjustments are made for both the time of year and the construction of the calendar, including corrections for the position of Easter and the number of trading days in a particular month.
9. UK HPI seasonally adjusted series are calculated at regional and national levels only. See [data tables](#).
10. The first estimate for new build average price (April 2016 report) was based on a small sample which can cause volatility. A three-month moving average has been applied to the latest estimate to remove some of this volatility.
11. Work has been taking place since 2014 to develop a single, official HPI that reflects the final transaction price for sales of residential property in the UK. Using the geometric mean, it covers purchases at market value for owner-occupation and buy-to-let, excluding those purchases not at market value (such as re-mortgages), where the 'price' represents a valuation.
12. Information on residential property transactions for England and Wales, collected as part of the official registration process, is provided by HM Land Registry for properties that are sold for full market value.
13. The HM Land Registry dataset contains the sale price of the property, the date when the sale was completed, full address details, the type of property (detached, semi-detached, terraced or flat), if it is a newly built property or an established residential building and a variable to indicate if the property has been purchased as a financed transaction

(using a mortgage) or as a non-financed transaction (cash purchase).

14. Repossession sales data is based on the number of transactions lodged with HM Land Registry by lenders exercising their power of sale.
  15. For England, this is shown as volumes of repossession sales recorded by Government Office Region. For Wales, there is a headline figure for the number of repossession sales recorded in Wales.
  16. The data can be downloaded as a .csv file. Repossession sales data prior to April 2016 is not available. Find out more information about [repossession sales](#).
  17. Background tables of the raw and cleansed aggregated data, in Excel and CSV formats, are also published monthly although Northern Ireland is on a quarterly basis. They are available for free use and re-use under the Open Government Licence.
  18. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.
  19. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.
  20. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for some 86% of the land mass of England and Wales.
  21. For further information about HM Land Registry visit [www.gov.uk/land-registry](http://www.gov.uk/land-registry)
  22. Follow us on [Twitter](#), our [blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)
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# Press release: UK to host Gavi pledging conference in 2020

The UK will host a major international conference in 2020 to raise funds for life-saving vaccinations for some of the world's poorest children, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced today.

The conference will bring together political leaders, civil society, public and private donors, vaccine manufacturers and governments to support the global vaccination body Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which has protected 700 million children in countries like Malawi, Haiti and Cameroon from diseases like measles, whooping cough and pneumonia since 2000.

More recently Gavi has delivered the first ever cholera vaccination campaign in Yemen, which helped protect more than 450,000 people. Last year alone, Senegal became the first Gavi-supported country in West Africa to introduce the HPV vaccine into its routine immunisation programme, protecting 200,000 nine-year-old girls against cervical cancer.

Hosting this conference demonstrates the UK's ongoing commitment to global health security and creating equal access to vaccines for children, wherever they live. UK aid already supports Gavi and our contribution will vaccinate 76 million children, saving 1.4 million lives from vaccine-preventable diseases by 2020.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

The UK's commitment to immunise millions of children and save lives is delivered through our partnership with Gavi and I am delighted the UK will be hosting the Gavi conference in 2020.

Immunisation is a vital part of all our lives and no child should suffer by at the hands of a vaccine-preventable disease. But tragically over half a million children continue to die in Africa every year from vaccine preventable diseases.

By bringing together international donors at this conference we can help create a healthier, safer and more prosperous world which is in all of our interests.

Gavi CEO Dr Seth Berkley said:

The UK helped create Gavi and has been one of our strongest supporters ever since. But for us British support means more than the vital funding and guidance we receive from the UK government. The UK supports Gavi's mission in many other ways, from British innovations like GSK's lifesaving vaccines or Dulas' solar vaccine

fridges, to British academics from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine or Imperial College London, to British advocates like Comic Relief or Save the Children.

That's why I'm delighted we are returning to the UK for our third replenishment, where I hope the UK will again help us to continue our work protecting children across the world against some of the world's deadliest diseases.

Gavi Board Chair Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said:

Vaccines don't just build healthier societies, they build healthier economies. I've seen this for myself during my time as Finance Minister for Nigeria: children that have been protected against severe, debilitating illnesses are more likely to go to school, are more likely to get good jobs and are less likely to have parents and siblings taking time off work to care for them.

That's why I'd like to thank the UK for its offer to host this replenishment and for its wider leadership in global health. Next year's event will help Gavi to build on the \$150 billion worth of economic benefits it has already helped to generate and give many more children a platform on which to build a brighter future.

The UK is Gavi's largest donor and is currently responsible for 25% of Gavi's budget and UK aid is helping to ensure children in the world's poorest countries receive the vaccines they need.

Next year's event builds on previous Gavi replenishment conferences, the first hosted in London in 2011 – which raised US\$ 4.3 billion and was attended by Bill Gates.

Since its last replenishment in Berlin in 2015, which raised US\$7.5 billion, Gavi has also helped 15 countries to transition out of Gavi support and fund 100% of their own vaccination programmes.

Gavi helps drive down the price of vaccinations by pooling demand from the world's poorest countries which has helped boost vaccine coverage from 60% to 80% in Gavi-supported countries since 2000.

#### **Notes to editors**

- This replenishment event follows the successful Gavi pledging conference in Berlin in January 2015, which raised US\$7.5 billion for the 2016-2020 period.
- Next year's event will raise funds to support Gavi's programmes from 2021-2025.
- The investment case, which will set out the amount required, will be published later this year.
- The UK has committed £1.44 billion to Gavi from 2016-2020, including

funding to its innovative finance mechanisms.

- 1 in 5 children in Gavi countries (20%) are missing out on the full course of basic diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) vaccine
- Around 1 in 7 children worldwide (15%) are missing out on the full course of basic diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) vaccine
- 1 in 10 children worldwide (9%) don't receive any vaccines whatsoever
- Gavi's work is contributing to 14 of the 17 Global Goals key to creating a better and more sustainable future for all.

## About Gavi

### About Gavi

- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable use of vaccines in lower-income countries.
  - The Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. Gavi uses innovative finance mechanisms to secure sustainable funding and adequate supply of quality vaccines.
  - Since 2000, Gavi has contributed to the immunisation of 700 million children and the prevention of 10 million future deaths.
  - Gavi has a unique model – it is a public private partnership that pools demand from the world's poorest countries, helping it to drive down the price of vaccines. Thanks to Gavi's work with manufacturers, supported countries pay less than US\$ 28 for a full course of 11 vaccines compared with the US price of over US\$ 1,100 for comparable vaccines. Gavi needs predictable financing, received through the replenishment process, to allow manufacturers and implementing countries to forecast demand over each five year period, helping to drive value for money and maximise the impact of every penny invested in the Vaccine Alliance.
  - Gavi is responsible for funding the global vaccine stockpiles of cholera, yellow fever and meningitis vaccines. Thanks to a unique agreement between Gavi and Merck there is also a stockpile of 300,000 investigational doses of Ebola vaccine, which are now being used to tackle the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
  - Even the poorest country must contribute some of their own money towards each vaccine delivered by Gavi. As countries get richer their governments put more of their own money into their vaccine programmes until they are fully funded by the country themselves. Fifteen countries have already successfully 'transitioned' out of Gavi support in this way.
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## News story: Second phase of work to transform Worthy Down gathers pace

Thanks to the Skanska, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), AECOM (DIO's Project Support Partner) and Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration Project teams, tranche two of the building works is well underway as part of the £300 million scheme.

The facilities under construction include: a combined medical, dental, and physical training centre; three Single Living Accommodation (SLA) units; the Officers' and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' (SNCO) mess; a Band and drill area; Headquarters building; and Navy Catering Services Realistic Working Environment space.

The works, which will see the new buildings completed from late 2019 through to early 2020, have included the demolition of several existing structures with 96 per cent of the materials being recycled, all while keeping the camp fully operational.

The Band Facility and Drill Shed under construction at Worthy Down. Copyright Skanska 2019

In this phase of works almost 500 bed spaces will be created to accommodate personnel from HMS Raleigh, Princess Royal Barracks, and RAF Halton. The SLA is being constructed using a combination of traditional build and modular methodology, which, due to the offsite method of construction, facilitates smoother programme delivery, provides enhanced finished quality, and reduces carbon emissions.

Another key building in tranche two is the combined medical, dental, and physical training centre which will contribute to the health and wellbeing of all personnel, offering leading-edge equipment and expertise and, when operational, will support the planned increase in capacity at the camp.

Paul Weale, Project Director, said:

The buildings we are creating in tranche two combine traditional and modern methods of construction. They will enable the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and DIO to welcome many more people to Worthy Down.

Tranche two is very important in terms of our plans to help relocate people to Worthy Down and it's great to see the scheme progressing so well.

Matthew Richardson, DIO's Principal Project Manager, said:

DIO supports Service personnel by providing and improving living, working and training facilities: including single living and service family accommodation. As the project continues to deliver and site capacity increases, we look forward to seeing more people experience the fantastic new facilities.

Re-building Worthy Down is one part of a two-part scheme for the DIO Project named Wellesley. The second is the development of a new community called Mindenhurst, in Deepcut, Surrey, where the MOD is vacating Princess Royal Barracks. Combined, the two parts will help the MOD to rationalise its estate and improve its training provision and living quarters.

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## [Press release: Dstl Announce Swarming Drone Hackathon Challenge](#)

Using a bespoke synthetic environment from AFRL, this hackathon is going to develop new and innovative ways to use unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to assist the emergency services to deal with wildfires.

This pioneering initiative aims to find new ways of using UAS for global search and rescue in defence and the public sector. Scenarios will be run in parallel with the US via a continuous video link with the WBI in Dayton, Ohio who are hosting the same event in the US.

The hackathon will explore innovative ways to plan missions using multiple systems to assist in the identification and prediction of how wildfires will spread and subsequently find preventative solutions, minimise damage and save lives. Teams will use a range of collaboration platforms to explore different fire scenarios with an increasing level of complexity, working with experts from the Fire Service, Dstl and the wider Ministry of Defence. Dstl and AFRL are using this innovative approach to find the best Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning algorithms that embody efficiency and resilience.

Defence Minister Stuart Andrew said:

Collaboration in innovative research between the UK and US continues to push the boundaries of advanced technology. This hackathon will bring together the best and brightest from academia, industry and the public to discover new ways to utilise life-saving drone technology.

Tim Wright, Dstl's Aerospace Systems Group Leader, said:

The speed and ferocity of the devastating wildfires in California demonstrated the need to develop new ways of using science and technology to assist the emergency services wherever possible. Small unmanned air systems or 'drones' – in the right hands – could offer a way of reducing the burden on the emergency services by mapping and tracking a wildfire in real time, autonomously, so efforts can be focussed rapidly where they're needed to save more lives.

[Tim Wright, Dstl's Aerospace Systems Group Leader explains](#)

We are reaching out to industry, academia, tech start-ups, coders, anyone with new ideas and an interest in drones, artificial intelligence or autonomy to help us find and develop new concepts of controlling drones in the most efficient and effective ways to give as much assistance to the emergency services as possible. This event will be a fantastic opportunity to spend a weekend with some of the best minds in the business from the UK and US, collaborating simultaneously with the Wright Brothers Institute's hackathon.

Mick Hitchcock from the US Air Force, said:

It is fantastic to be able to work with Dstl on this project. The activity fits right into both countries' desire to approach research differently, and involves non-traditional innovative thinkers as partners and most importantly get results faster. The competition is not between the two countries, but to highlight the ability to rapidly work together on tough problems.

The winning team from the UK hackathon will be offered a unique opportunity to present their winning ideas and proposal for further exploitation at the British Embassy in Washington DC. Costs for travel and accommodation will be provided where appropriate. The winning teams from both the US and UK hackathons will also be recognised at the AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2019 unmanned and autonomous systems trade show.

The UK and US hackathons take place simultaneously from 29 to 31 March 2019 with the UK event taking place at the 'Spark' Facility at Southampton Solent University.

To register for this unique event, visit [Eventbrite](#) and see all the latest updates [here](#)

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