

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