

Homes England agrees funding packages worth £300m to accelerate delivery of 20,000 London homes

- In Brent Cross, a £148 million funding facility will fund land and infrastructure works needed to unlock delivery of 6,700 homes.
- At Silvertown Quays, a £105m debt facility will unlock a minimum of 3,000 homes.
- At Barking Riverside, a £56 million funding package will deliver upfront infrastructure for the 10,000-home scheme.

Homes England, the government's housing agency, has agreed funding packages totalling £309 million to accelerate construction at three major London housing developments.

The three schemes, in Brent Cross, Silvertown and Barking Riverside, have a total capacity for up to 20,000 new homes.

The loan funding, from the government's £4.5 billion Home Building Fund, will enable the schemes to invest in infrastructure necessary to speed up the construction of thousands of new homes in the capital.

In Brent Cross, a £148 million funding facility will enable the Brent Cross South Limited Partnership (BXS LP) – a partnership between Barnet Council and developer Argent Related – to fund the land and infrastructure works needed to unlock the delivery of 6,700 homes. The homes will be delivered approximately four years faster than they would have been without the funding, on a 180-acre brownfield site which stretches from the North Circular Road to Cricklewood Lane between Hendon Way and the Edgware Road. In addition, BXS LP will deliver Grade A office space and retail as well as leisure facilities, new schools, community facilities and new and improved parks, altogether providing for 25,000 jobs.

The Silvertown Partnership, consisting of an affiliate of Starwood Capital Group and Lendlease, will use a £105 million debt facility to unlock a minimum of 3,000 new homes at Silvertown Quays. The major 62-acre brownfield development in the Royal Docks, Newham, also has planning approval for office, brand, retail and leisure space. Millennium Mills, a former mill and local landmark, will be brought back to life and a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across Royal Victoria Dock will link the site to Custom House Crossrail station to make it one of the best-connected regeneration sites of its size in London. By providing finance that will help tackle high up-front infrastructure costs, Homes England's investment will also support the restoration of Millennium Mills and the dock walls themselves, which have previously been a barrier to development of the scheme.

Lastly, Homes England has agreed a funding package worth £56 million to deliver upfront infrastructure at Barking Riverside, a 179-hectare

development of over 10,000 new homes. Homes England's funding will support the acceleration of the provision of services, roads and social infrastructure, as well as helping unlock previously challenging areas of the site and increasing potential capacity by an additional 1,000-2,000 homes. Barking Riverside is being delivered by Barking Riverside Limited, a joint venture between the Mayor of London and housing association L&Q, who have committed to providing a wide range of housing tenures and up to 50 percent affordable housing. Plans for Barking Riverside also include 65,000 square metres of commercial and leisure space, as well as healthcare facilities, seven new schools, large public open spaces and a new London Overground station.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP said:

"Our commitment to get Britain building is central to the mission of this Government, which is why last month I ensured home building can restart in a way that is safe.

"This investment from our £4.5 billion fund is a real statement of intent, delivering up to 20,000 homes, thousands of jobs, and putting in place the schools, retail and leisure spaces needed to form strong, vibrant communities."

Gordon More, Chief Investments Officer at Homes England, said:

"Despite the unusual and challenging situation the housebuilding sector, and indeed the whole country, is currently facing, Homes England remains open for business and committed to helping our partners deliver much-needed new homes.

"By investing in projects on this scale and allowing funding to be recycled into future phases of development, we are able to support significant schemes where commercial lenders may not. This means these three major developments can invest in the infrastructure they need to deliver in these uncertain times and accelerate the delivery of new homes."

André Gibbs, Joint CEO of Brent Cross South DM, said:

"This loan will assist in funding the infrastructure required to deliver 6,700 new homes as well as 3 million square feet of state-of-the-art offices, support retail and public amenities. At this challenging time, it is a great boost to the project that will allow us to maintain momentum and to secure the earliest possible delivery of vital homes."

Graham Stark, Project Director for Silvertown Quays at Lendlease, said:

"This facility will support the creation of a brand-new piece of the city at a location with immense potential. By reviving the last major underdeveloped site in the Royal Docks, we will be creating a superb new development with the ability to generate considerable benefits for the local community."

Matthew Carpen, Managing Director of Barking Riverside Limited, comments:

"This funding represents an important new partnership as we push forward in

the delivery of necessary infrastructure, world-class public realm and new facilities for the local community and London as a whole. Up to 50 percent of the homes unlocked will be affordable, with significantly enhanced connectivity and increased opportunities for local people and future residents.”

ENDS

Recovered appeal: land at Love Lane, Woolwich (ref: 3233519 – 3 June 2020)

27 storey building comprising 1,056 square metres GIA (gross internal area) of commercial floorspace (Classes A1, A2, A3, B1 and D1) at ground and first floor, and 206 residential units at upper floors, cycle parking, refuse and recycling storage, plant and external amenity space, and external landscaping and improvements to public realm (Phase 3)

and construction of buildings between 9 and 16 storeys comprising 1,793 square metres GIA of commercial floorspace (Classes A1, A3 and B1) at ground floors of Buildings A, B, C, D and H and 598 residential units at upper floors, car and cycle parking, refuse and recycling storage, plant, external amenity space, alterations to the roof of loading bay, and external landscaping and improvements to public realm (Phase 4).

Recovered appeal: land at Wolborough Barton, Coach Road, Newton Abbot (ref: 3205558 – 3 June 2020)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]Decision letter and Inspector’s Report for a recovered appeal.

Health and Social Care Secretary's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 2 June 2020

Good afternoon and welcome to Downing Street for the daily coronavirus briefing. In keeping with the new format, I'll go through the slides now and then we'll take questions from members of the public and from journalists.

Slide one shows the testing capacity and the number of new cases. The top chart in the slide shows the number of tests. That number of tests as of 2 June was 135,643. This is different to testing capacity which stands at just over 200,000.

As I said yesterday, this demonstrates that there is spare capacity in testing. So if you have symptoms of coronavirus, that's a fever or a new dry cough or a change in your sense of taste or smell, then please do go and get a test from [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by phoning 119. It's incredibly important that we can trace the virus by ensuring that anybody with symptoms has a test. And of course we're rolling out testing across care homes and making sure staff in hospitals get the opportunity to be tested as well.

The bottom chart on the slide shows the number of confirmed cases. This is 1,613 as of 2 June. This brings the total number of cases confirmed in the UK to 277,985. Although the 1,613 figure is slightly higher than yesterday we can see that the 7-day rolling average continues to fall.

The data from hospitals show that those new admissions to hospitals in England has fallen to 436. This is down from 471 on 24 May, so just over a week ago, and down from a high of 3,121 on 2 April. This figure of 436 admissions to hospitals in England with COVID-19 is the lowest figure since 20 March. It demonstrates once again that we are making progress against this disease. Again, as yesterday the proportion of mechanical ventilators, ventilated beds that are occupied by patients with coronavirus remains at 9%.

Just like yesterday, the number of people in hospital continues to fall. 7,607 are now in hospital with coronavirus and that is falling, broadly falling in each part of the country, but for a little bit of day-to-day movement in some of the areas, for instance as you can see right at the end of the chart for the North East and Yorkshire. But we keep that very closely under review. But the overriding trend, as you can see, is downwards.

The next slide is the number of deaths and sadly on the 2 June [correction: 1 June], yesterday, 324 deaths with coronavirus were recorded taking the total to 39,369. We mourn each one of these. We try to keep these data as accurate as possible, including where we find, in the past, in some cases there are deaths where we discover there has been a connection to coronavirus and we add those into those data. So again we can see that the trend is broadly down but there is still some way to go. And after the weekend effect, which we've

seen each weekend in terms of the number of deaths recorded, because this is according to the date these are recorded, we've seen that rise on most Mondays and sadly the figure is 324 today.

The final slide reports on data from the Office for National Statistics which was reported this morning and reported a total of 48,106 deaths in the UK where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. You can see again that this number is falling. The top chart shows those data and where we were on the recorded daily deaths data for the period that corresponded to these data coming from the ONS. On the bottom chart we can see the place of occurrence of those deaths. You can see both the number of deaths and the proportion of deaths that are in care homes, both of those are falling. 27.3% of deaths occurred in care homes in the latest ONS data to the week of 22 May, bringing the proportion overall of deaths in care homes down to 32.5%.

We don't capture in these charts, but we do capture in a report published by Public Health England today further data, some of which are much more troubling. The PHE investigation into the way in which the virus targets people unequally and disproportionately has been put on the website. This is a particularly timely publication because right across the world people are angry about racial injustice and I get that. Black lives matter and I want to say this to everyone who works in the NHS and in social care. I value the contribution that you make, everybody equally. And I want to say it right across society too. I want to thank you and I want you to know that our whole country cares about your wellbeing. And I value too those who come to our country to work in the NHS and in social care. And I love that this country is one of the most welcoming and tolerant and diverse. That goes for the whole country and it goes especially for the health and care system.

As I said in the House of Commons earlier, PHE's investigation found that age is the biggest risk factor for coronavirus, next gender, living in a city is a risk and being black or from a minority ethnic background is also a significant risk factor. There is much more work to do to understand what is driving these disparities and how the different risk factors interact and we are absolutely determined to get to the bottom of this and find ways of closing that gap. I'm delighted that Kemi Badenoch, the Minister for Equalities, will be taking this work forward, working with PHE and many others.

We value the contribution from everyone to fighting this virus. Everyone has a contribution to make. Of course, the thing that every single person can do is to make their personal contribution to fighting this virus. In the first instance things as simple as washing your hands, following the social distancing rules and of course if you have symptoms please self-isolate immediately and get tested to protect your friends and family. So let's keep going and we'll get through this. We'll now turn to questions.

Ministry of Defence seeks to maximise Reserves contribution through new review

News story

The specialist contribution military reservists have made across society during Britain's battle against coronavirus will help inform a review examining how defence can maximise the skills of its Reserve Forces.



The Reserve Forces 2030 review aims to establish how best to harness the specialist knowledge and expertise of role of Reservists, with particular emphasis on how defence can unlock their potential to support wider government, business and society.

Seeking views from across defence and other government departments, as well as employers in business, and academia in the UK and internationally, the review team is considering fresh ways Reserves could contribute to defence and wider government objectives by the end of the decade.

Reserve Forces already offer a means of engaging people with specialist or niche skills, including those who helped build the Nightingale Hospitals.

The review will also examine how defence can best partner with business as well as consider utilising innovative ways of partnering across government and with the private sector to potentially share the cost, but most certainly share the skills and expertise that are vital to the UK economy.

Minister for the Armed Forces James Heappey said:

Reservists are an exceptional group of people with specialist skills and expertise in a wide range of sectors. Their integral role within our nation's Armed Forces has been demonstrated once again in the support they have provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

It's crucial that we look towards the future, not only to consider how best to utilise our existing talent but also how we can strengthen the role of Reserves for generations to come.

The RF30 review team look forward to engaging with you all in the coming months and hearing your views – but in the meantime – if you have ideas about how defence, Her Majesty's Government and wider society could get greater utility from its reserves out to 2030 then we want to hear from you.

Please leave us a message at People-ReserveForces2030@mod.gov.uk.

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