

News from around the sector

Thursday 25 July 2019

Here's a roundup of the week's sector news, updates, announcements, and more:

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UK gets new housing minister as Brokenshire quits

Bad news, James Brokenshire fans: he's no longer housing minister. The serial announcer, who was busy announcing things right up to the last few hours of Theresa May's shambolic reign, has been replaced by Robert Jenrick MP, who is the new top dog down at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Esther McVey will also serve as a junior minister to the new housing minister.

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Homes England chair who worked on Johnson campaign to continue leave of absence

In a statement to Inside Housing, a spokesperson confirmed that Simon Dudley, senior independent director at the government's housing delivery agency, will continue "to deputise for Sir Edward Lister while he takes leave of absence".

[Read more...](#) (registration required)

May claims 'decline' in roughsleeping figures in final PMQs

Outgoing PM cites the Homelessness Reduction Act as "having an impact".

[Read more...](#)

UK mortgage approvals near two-year high in June – UK Finance

The number of mortgages approved for British house purchases edged up to one of its highest levels in the past two years last month, though credit card lending grew at a slower pace, data from industry body UK Finance showed on Wednesday.

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UK property sales in huge slump as transactions fall for third month in a row

Property transactions plummeted in June, dropping by 16.5% annually on a seasonally adjusted basis and by 25.1% without adjustments. HMRC data shows there were 84,490 residential transactions on a seasonally-adjusted basis last month, down 9.6% on a monthly basis.

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Wednesday 24 July 2019

Public Accounts Committee: Government will fail to meet key land disposal targets

The UK is in the grip of a housing crisis, with a severe shortage in some areas of affordable homes specifically social homes for rent. Despite these pressing issues, the government has failed to use its position as a major land owner to develop and execute an effective strategy to meet land disposal targets.

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Regions most at risk from withdrawal of Help To Buy revealed

Where regional caps create 'cliff edges' that could severely impact demand, government needs to provide certainty or new solutions to meet housing delivery targets.

[Read more...](#)

Asbestos roofs to be removed on hundreds of council homes in Milton Keynes

The 'white houses' area of Stantonbury is one of the first areas to benefit from investment under the council's recently-launched £165m council housing improvement programme.

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£2.9m extra funding to boost action on making homes more resilient to floods

Extra funding will support three projects to increase flood resilience.

[Read more...](#)

Tuesday 23 July 2019

Boris Johnson wins race to be Tory leader and PM

He beat Jeremy Hunt comfortably, winning 92,153 votes to his rival's 46,656. The former London mayor takes over from Theresa May on Wednesday.

[Read more...](#)

Attitudes survey: quarter of people over 66 feel uncomfortable living next to social housing

Findings from the 2018 British Social Attitudes survey looking specifically at social housing show that 25% of people aged over 66 feel uncomfortable living next to this type of housing.

[Read more...](#) (registration required)

View the full British Social Attitudes survey [here](#).

Universal Credit should “come with a health warning”

So-called “natural migration” is trapping benefit claimants in the DWP “lobster pot”, struggling with a sudden drop in income and with no way back, says the Work and Pensions Committee as it publishes its latest report on the “baffling”, sprawling welfare reform.

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Ministers pledge to end ‘poor doors’ in new build housing

The separate entrances for social housing tenants living in new builds “stigmatise” and divide them from private residents, the government said.

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No-deal Brexit risk may have already pushed UK into recession, says NIESR

Leaving without deal will 'throw concrete' in wheels of British-EU trade, says economist.

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Brokenshire 'job swap' with Michael Gove

Communities Secretary and environment secretary tipped to swap jobs amid speculation over beefed up house building role for MHCLG.

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UK property prices set to fall this year but pick up gradually from 2020 onwards

The UK housing market has slowed significantly in recent years, particularly in London and the South East where price growth is predicted to be negative in 2019, according to a new analysis.

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Monday 22 July 2019

Renters may get access to rogue landlord database

The Rogue Landlords Database was launched in 2018 and only has ten names on it so far. It includes those who have been banned for failing to make a property habitable, or have been convicted of serious offences.

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Unions criticise 'selective' public sector pay rises

Only 2 million of 5.36 million public sector workers are expected to benefit and, with the exception of some extra funding for schools, the rises are expected to have to be drawn from existing budgets.

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DWP ready to spend millions on marketing and advertising

The department's 2019-20 communications budget for advertising and marketing is £13,332,000 – whilst thousands are driven to destitution by 'welfare reform'.

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UK poll shows environment of greater concern than housing or terrorism

Protecting the environment has overtaken affordable housing and the threat of terrorism in the British public's policy priorities over the last eight months, polling has revealed.

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New homes must contain 'hedgehog highways' and swift bricks

The Government has set out its expectations on how developers can protect specific species – including using 'hedgehog highways' and hollow swift bricks.

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Friday 19 July 2019

Conservative London mayoral candidate would launch his own house builder

Mr Bailey said the new body, called Housing for London (HfL), would clear the capital's "multi-generational housing backlog" and "recapture the spirit and will of the Harold MacMillan era of British housebuilding".

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UK energy-saving efforts collapse after government subsidy cuts

The fall in energy-efficiency upgrades such as loft insulation means it will take 96 years to reach UK targets to cut fuel poverty, says National Energy Action.

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New fund plans £100m of loans for supported housing providers

Set up by impact investor Social and Sustainable Capital (SASC), which has two existing funds in the third sector, the housing fund launched in May this year with a first close of £26m from 19 investors.

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No-deal Brexit could cause £30bn economic hit, says watchdog

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said borrowing would be almost £60bn if the UK leaves without a deal – up from £29.3bn if it does get a deal.

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Grenfell-style cladding removal work to be complete by June 2020, says government

Mr Brokenshire's statement today marks the first time the government has given any indication of timescales for the completion of the vital safety work.

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