

News from around the sector

Thursday 1 August 2019

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Britain to spend an extra £2.1bn on no-deal Brexit planning

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who took power last week, has pledged to leave the trading bloc without an agreement in three months unless the EU agrees to renegotiate the deal agreed by his predecessor Theresa May.

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Five housing associations get credit downgrades from S&P

Five housing associations have received credit downgrades from ratings agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) in a flurry of actions over the past month.

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

Government urged to scrap 'nasty' two-child limit on benefits

Figures show nearly 600,000 children are adversely affected by policy

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CEOs urge PM to 'ensure people prosper' from £3bn cash boost

Joint letter calls on Johnson to commit to building stronger opportunities for communities across the UK.

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Redcar and Cleveland Council ‘could go bust within two years’

Redcar and Cleveland Council’s current financial plan means its £25m reserves will run out by 2021, according to the authority’s auditor.

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Wates sets target of 40% women workforce by 2025

Wates Group has unveiled a set of diversity targets which will see women accounting for 40% of the workforce by 2025.

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Wednesday 31 July 2019

Young Britons believe dream of owning home is over, survey says

Santander survey suggests only a quarter of under-34s could own a home by 2026.

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‘Youth Service Guarantee’ needed to protect young people from serious violence

In its report on Serious youth violence the Home Affairs Committee says the rise in serious youth violence is a social emergency, and that young people have been failed in the most devastating way, losing their lives as a result.

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Construction bosses prepare for downturn

Construction bosses are readying workforces for a downturn – with higher levels of sub-contracting and lower levels of direct employment.

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LGBT people are ‘being made homeless due to religion’

The Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT) charity says three in four LGBT people are rejected by their families – and 45% of that number are from a faith background.

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Liverpool puts forward ‘radical’ £230m Green City Deal bid

The Mayor of Liverpool has pitched the £230m bid to Boris Johnson’s new Government in a bid to boost the city’s economy through new powers and funding, including incentives for the private sector to build more energy-efficient homes.

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Tuesday 30 July 2019

Airbnb host fined £100,000 for letting council flat

Council tenant Toby Harman, 37, created the fake identity “Lara” on Airbnb to rent out his studio apartment. The flat, in Victoria, had been advertised since 2013 and received more than 300 reviews, Westminster City Council said.

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Councils ‘could seek criminal action’ against contractor following gas safety issues

Four Kent councils could seek “criminal or legal action” against a contractor that managed gas services for their under-fire ALMO.

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

Housing transactions across England and Wales fall to lowest levels for six years and at fastest rate for a decade

Analysis of Land Registry figures for the 12 months to June, by property adviser London Central Portfolio (LCP), shows that transactions in England and Wales, excluding London, fell by 2.5% to 781,005 – the lowest level since 2013 and the fastest rate since 2009.

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The Construction Products Association downgrades its forecasts for construction output for 2020 and 2021.

The Construction Products Association Summer Forecast for 2019-2021 predicts a 0.3% decline in total construction output for 2019, in line with previous projections, but the forecasts for 2020 has been revised down to 1.0% from 1.4% just three months ago. The forecast for 2021 has been cut to 1.4% from 1.7% previously.

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Soaring property wealth creating huge gulf between rich and poor across Scotland

The richest 10% now own about a third of Scottish housing wealth after snapping up houses in wake of financial crash.

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Monday 29 July 2019

New report reveals 4.5m people are more than 50% below the poverty line, and 7m people are living in persistent poverty.

The new report from the Social Metrics Commission shows that, despite fluctuations, overall rates of poverty have changed relatively little since the millennium. The current rate of poverty is 22%, which is the same as last year and only slightly lower than the 24% seen in 2000/01. However, this trend hides significant changes in rates of poverty among different groups.

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LGA calls for legislation to reform local government finance

The chair of the Local Government Association has written to the prime minister to meet with him and ask for a new local government finance act.

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Boris Johnson pledges £3.6bn boost for deprived towns

In first major speech, PM seeks to take spotlight off Brexit with plan to 'turbocharge' regions.

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Housing crisis is harming productivity, nearly half of UK businesses warn

Some 43% of UK companies with over 1,000 employees said that housing issues are having a negative effect on their business' productivity, according to new findings released by the Centre for Social Justice.

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Government hiding behind ‘meaningless’ definitions of affordable housing

Commons debate on future for Local Housing Allowance sees support for sum covering at least the cheapest third of local rents.

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Friday 26 July 2019

Boris Johnson promises investment in housing

New prime minister Boris Johnson has promised investment in housing, listing it among other pieces of “vital infrastructure”.

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

Metro mayor slams ‘spine shivering’ McVey appointment

Liverpool Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram fears much-vilified Housing Minister Esther McVey threatens the future of a pilot Housing First scheme just launched in the region.

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MHCLG admits absence of key leasehold data

Response to written Commons question confirms no data held on opportunities to buy property freehold at point of purchase.

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Brighton could become the first UK city to have a homeless bill of rights

The council will debate whether to protect 13 rights for rough sleepers tomorrow following a 2,000-signature petition.

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Homeless World Cup: Wales teams target joy on and off the pitch

The 17th edition of the tournament, which is being held in Cardiff, runs from 27 July to 3 August and features about 500 players from 48 countries.

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