

News from around the sector

Thursday 22 August 2019

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

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130,000 families forced to live in one-bed flats

A severe shortage of homes is forcing 130,000 families in England to squeeze into one-bedroom flats, according to a new report from the National Housing Federation.

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Social housing staff show 'lack of' environmental conscious

40% of those surveyed said that they didn't worry about energy consumption in the workplace as they "don't pick up the bill."

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One Housing secures £150m North American investment

The funding will be put towards the groups Corporate plan to develop 5,000 new homes over the next 10 years.

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Mayor calls for overhaul of sector to give renters better deal

He has published new analysis showing private renters are less likely to register to vote and therefore are missing the opportunity to have their voices heard at both a local and national level.

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Big construction holds its breath as axe hangs over HS2

The government has published the terms of reference for a review into whether and how to proceed with the High Speed 2 project.

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Wednesday 21 August 2019

Thousands of children growing up in shipping containers, office blocks and B&Bs

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, has published new research which shines a light on the thousands of children growing up in homeless families. The report, "Bleak houses: Tackling the crisis of family homelessness in England", reveals the terrible reality of how some children are living in converted shipping containers and office blocks, and B&Bs, in cramped conditions, often miles away from their schools.

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To view the full report, [click here](#).

Construction and fire industries set out sweeping proposals

A radical and wide-ranging set of measures to improve the competence of those who design, construct, inspect, maintain and operate higher risk residential buildings (HRRBs) and make them safer for the public has been set out today by a cross-industries group backed by Government, the Industry Safety Steering Group and Dame Judith Hackitt.

[Read more...](#)

House prices would flounder in six months after no-deal Brexit – Reuters poll

Britain's drifting property market would probably take a hit from a disorderly Brexit, with average prices slipping about 3% nationally in the ensuing six months and as much as 10% in London, a Reuters poll of housing experts found.

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The role of housing in the Northern Powerhouse

Analysis by Homes for the North of the housing required to unlock the benefits of transport investment in the North of England.

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Tackle councils' funding issues or services will get worse, MPs warn

MPs are calling on the government to tackle the £5bn funding gap faced by local authorities, warning that services will continue to decline until it does so.

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Community Land Trusts key to rural housing revival

New report pitches the partnership potential between housing associations and local land trusts.

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Tuesday 20 August 2019

Government announces £600m boost for housing

Sajid Javid announced the new funding boost on Monday, which the government hopes will build up to 50,000 new homes in high demand areas.

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Households cut back on big-ticket spending amid recession fears

Purchases on holidays and cars fall, with UK consumer confidence at lowest ebb in three months.

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No-deal papers reveal council fears over food supply

Legal school meal nutrition standards may need to be amended, or discarded, in the event of a no-deal Brexit, according to internal local council planning documents seen by the BBC.

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Research reveals which borough is best at tackling empty homes

Research has shown Wandsworth Council to be the best in London at reviving empty homes.

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Councils can bid for digital fund

According to local government minister Luke Hall, successful bidders may see grants of up to £350,000 from the Local Digital Fund invested in their projects. There's £7.5m to be shared amongst those with the most innovative of plans.

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Monday 19 August 2019

No 10 furious at leak of paper predicting shortages after no-deal Brexit

Downing Street has reacted with fury to the leak of an official document predicting that a no-deal Brexit would lead to food, medicine and petrol shortages, with No 10 sources blaming the disclosure on a hostile former minister intent on ruining Boris Johnson's trip to see EU leaders this week.

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“General election will stop Brexit crisis”

Jeremy Corbyn will say the UK is facing a Brexit 'crisis' and vow to do “everything necessary” to stop the UK leaving the EU without a deal. It comes after a leaked government report warned of food and medicine shortages in a no-deal exit.

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Report dismisses DWP ‘scaremongering’ claims over Universal Credit

A defensive DWP can't claim critics are “scaremongering” over Universal Credit (UC) until it can define what is an acceptable measure of its impact, a Commons report says.

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UK elderly suffer worst poverty rate in western Europe

The proportion of elderly people living in severe poverty in the UK is five times what it was in 1986, the largest increase among western European countries, according to a new study.

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Four new members appointed to Homes England's Board

Four new members have been appointed to the Board of Homes England, the government's housing accelerator, "increasing its gender diversity and boosting its resilience".

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Friday 16 August 2019

Are Social Housing Green Paper proposals on ice?

One year ago this week, the government published its long-awaited Social Housing Green Paper. This document, which was overdue, was supposed to be the "most substantial report of its kind for a generation" and deliver a "fundamental rethink of social housing in this country". But these lofty aims remain – as yet – unfulfilled.

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Locked-out asylum seeker allowed to return to Home Office lodgings

A Home Office contractor has smashed a door to asylum seeker accommodation to allow an asylum seeker with an active case back into her room after locking her out just hours before.

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Section 21: More fierce criticism for government over its scrapping

Claims that the use of Section 21 'no fault' eviction notices is the leading cause of homelessness in the UK are "factually incorrect, misleading and just plain wrong", says the National Landlords Association.

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Citizens Advice training document 'propagated racist stereotypes'

The training document listed "common traits" allegedly found within BAME communities, including a distrust of British authorities, evidence of gender bias and discrimination, early marriage and large families, low levels of literacy, and a cultural focus on honour and shame.

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Middlesbrough partnership plans social housing redevelopment

“This is a real socialism in action policy and the first really big social housing programme in the town centre in a long time.”

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