

# Home building The facts



## 1 Britain is experiencing a housing crisis

Current home building levels are nowhere near enough to meet demand. Last year 160,000 new homes were built in England, compared with projected household growth of 223,000 per year.<sup>1</sup>



## 2 The Government has raised home building targets

The Government has set a housing target of 240,000 homes per year by 2016, and a total of 3 million homes by 2020.<sup>2</sup>

## 3 Britain's planning system is still not bringing land forward quickly enough to meet housing needs

It takes on average 15 months for home builders to receive full planning permission on sites they wish to develop. This excludes time taken for pre-application discussions which can extend the whole process to over 2 years in many cases.<sup>3</sup>

## 4 Britain's home builders are working hard to meet housing needs

New home completions have risen some 35% since 2001.<sup>4</sup>



## 5 Home building does not pose a threat to the countryside

Green belt land comprises 13% of total land in England.<sup>5</sup> Only 8% of land in the UK is classed as urban, half the figure in Holland and lower than Belgium, Denmark and Germany.<sup>6</sup>



Average house prices in England are more than

# seven times

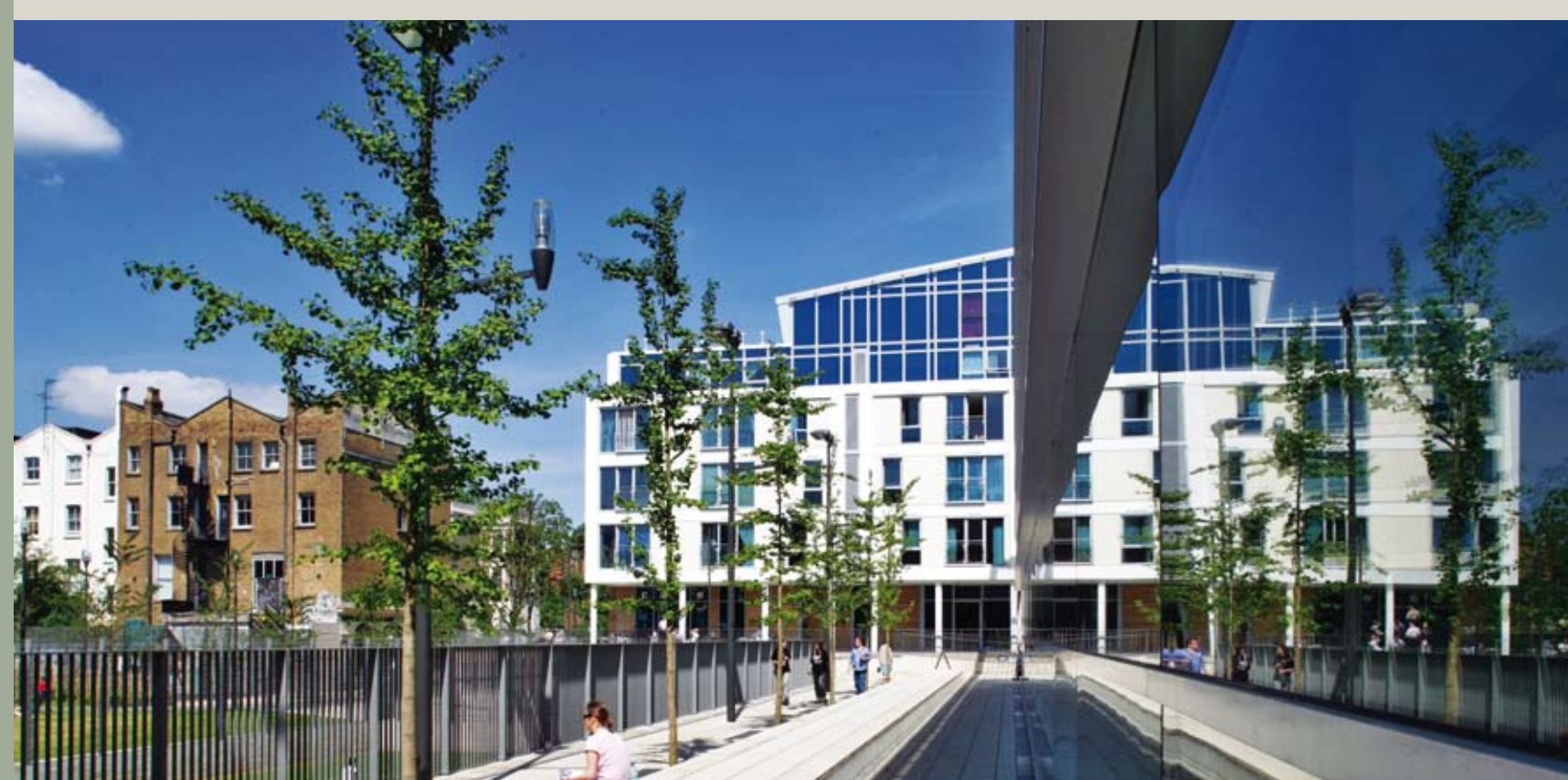
average salaries and are set to reach nine-and-a-half times this by 2026.<sup>8</sup>

## 6 New homes are far more environmentally friendly and sustainable

Due to building standards introduced in 2006, new homes are now 40% more energy efficient than new homes built at the beginning of the decade.<sup>7</sup>

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1 CLG Housing Statistics 2007, February 2008 / 2 Housing Green Paper, CLG, July 2007 / 3 HBF research, November 2006  
4 CLG Housebuilding Statistics 2007, February 2008 / 5 CLG land use statistics 2007 / 6 CLG local planning authority green belt statistics, January 2007 / 7 CLG, 2006 / 8 National Housing Planning Advice Unit, 2007



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