

National Planning Policy Framework Fact Sheet:



Home Builders Federation Briefing

September 2011

- Last year saw just 103,000 homes built in England, the fewest since 1923
- Official household formation projections show we should be building at least 232,000 per year
- First time buyers in particular are being penalised by the lack of available housing (alongside credit constraints). Last year there were just 200,000 first time buyers, compared to 600,000 a decade ago
- 18% of females and 29% of males aged 20-34 still live with parents which means that over 1 million women and 1.7 million men aged between 20 and 34 are still living at home
- 1.8 million families (5 million people) are currently on Local Authority waiting lists in England
- A survey by the Killian Pretty Review in 2008 found that only 3 out of 64 planning applications went ahead without difficulties, while over half encountered substantial problems. According to the National Audit Office, planning laws create the highest regulatory costs of any type of regulation.
- Permissions for just over 25,000 homes were approved in Q2 in England, compared with more than 32,000 in Q2 2010 and against a quarterly requirement of nearly 60,000 based on the Government's household projections. In Q2 2006 almost 50,000 permissions were granted by Local Authorities.
- House building inputs significantly to the UK economy and is one of the country's leading employers
- According to Government figures, even in its current crisis state, housing supply accounts for around 3% of UK GDP and provides between 1 and 1.25 million jobs in the UK
- Each home built creates 1.5 direct full-time jobs and many more in the supply chain. Increasing current house-building by 130,000 units per year (to Government household projection levels) would create 195,000 direct jobs and hundreds of thousands more in the supply chain
- In February, Local Authorities learnt for the first time how much they will receive from developing. Some will gain over £4M in New Homes Bonus whilst others will receive nothing. The figures also show that some Local Authorities will in future be missing out on up to £27M a year by scrapping previous plans for homes or not building enough to meet the needs of their communities
- Over 80% of people believe Britain needs more homes, particularly for first time buyers
- Just 10% of England is "developed" – this includes parks, public spaces and gardens - while only 12% of the South-East, excluding London, is developed. Protected land amounts to over 30% of land in England
- If 250,000 homes were built annually for 25 years just 1% of England's land mass would be used

About HBF

The Home Builders Federation (HBF) is the representative body of the home building industry in England and Wales. The HBF's member firms account for some 80% of all new homes built in England and Wales in any one year, and include companies of all sizes, ranging from multi-national, household names through regionally based businesses to small local companies.

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