

Your bitesize construction bulletin

July 2024

SHDF Wave 3

Sustainability

What is it?

A government funding scheme to decarbonise social housing through retrofit works.

What should I know?

- This wave is funding £1.25 billion.
- Applications will open in summer for local and combined authorities, social housing providers and charities.
- The fund will help deliver energy efficient homes, tackle fuel poverty, support green jobs, and develop the retrofit sector.



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Homes for Nature

Housebuilding

What is it?

Housebuilders have signed up to a voluntary commitment to support wildlife on new developments.

What should I know?

- A bird nest box or brick and hedgehog highways will be installed for every new home from September.
- Housebuilders are also encouraged to add other nature-friendly features such as bat roosts and insect bricks.
- 20 housebuilders have signed up.



CITB annual forecast

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

The CITB construction skills network report has highlighted a persistent skills shortage.

What should I know?

- Construction output rose by 2% in 2023, and it's forecasted to grow by 2.4% a year until 2028.
- More than 251,500 extra workers will be needed. The industry gained 200,000 new workers, but lost 210,000.
- Sectors of major growth are expected to be: housing, infrastructure, and repair and maintenance.



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Loch Awe hydro project

Innovation

What is it?

Planning application has been submitted for a 1.5GW pumped storage hydro project in Scotland.

What should I know?

- It's expected to cost £2bn and take 5 years to build.
- It will be Europe's largest hydro energy plant if approved.
- It will enhance the UK's renewable energy infrastructure by generating enough electricity to power 4.5M homes.



The King's Speech

Events

What is it?

It set out the new government's priorities for the next few months including 39 bills.

What should I know?

- English Devolution Bill - will enable greater transfer of powers and funding from national to local government.
- Planning and Infrastructure Bill - will support the target of 1.5 million new homes over the next five years.
- Passenger Railway Services Bill - will bring train operators into public ownership.



You're all caught up!