

# Your bitesize construction bulletin

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November 2024  
Bumper edition

# Construction sector sees Q3 growth

Market conditions and challenges

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## What is it?

The latest estimates from the UK Office for National Statistics indicate a modest rise in the construction sector's output in September 2024.

## What should I know?

- The increase in output contributed to the overall GDP growth in Q3 of 2024.
- In the three months leading up to September, the sector saw varied performance across its segments. Infrastructure new work made the largest contribution at 2.8%, while private housing repair and maintenance dropped by 5.8%.



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# Investment for 5,000 new apprenticeships

Market conditions and challenges

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## What is it?

In a bid to boost housebuilding, the government has announced plans to create 5,000 new construction apprenticeships.

## What should I know?

- The £140m investment will see up to 32 new Homebuilding Skills Hubs set up by 2028.
- The Hubs will be launched in areas that need more housing to provide specialist training in a range of trades including: bricklaying, roofing, plastering, carpentry, scaffolding, and electrical work.



# Consulting engineers appointed for Leeds-Bradford tram

Innovation, technology and trends

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## What is it?

Consulting engineers Jacobs and Mott MacDonald have been appointed to design the West Yorkshire Mass Transit Programme.

## What should I know?

- The West Yorkshire Combined Authority has plans for a mass transit system to service the county.
- The first phase of the plan looks at two tram lines, the Leeds and Bradford lines, which will be delivered by the end of the decade.



# Construction opportunities in the retail sector

Market conditions and challenges

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## What is it?

Large retailers are investing in updating and expanding their stores which is creating new opportunities for the UK construction sector.

## What should I know?

- New contracts are being generated from retailers such as Marks & Spencer and John Lewis investing in their high street shops, as well as major supermarkets like Aldi and Lidl continuing to expand.
- This comes after a survey from CBRE which surveyed 60 of Europe's major retailers and found that 72% have plans for expansion.



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# RICS' report urges push for decarbonisation

Sustainability

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## What is it?

A new report by RICS, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, highlights the need for the UK's built environment to decarbonise to meet the 2050 target.

## What should I know?

- RICS indicates that the UK construction sector must take more decisive action to align with national and global climate goals.
- A lack of government incentives and policy uncertainty was identified as a significant barrier to adopting greener practices, as well as high costs for sustainable materials.



# Leeds' £200m build-to-rent scheme

Market conditions and challenges

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## What is it?

Ardent Capital Partners entered the UK property market with a landmark £200m investment into a build-to-rent development in Leeds.

## What should I know?

- The development will be located on the site of the former Leeds International Swimming pool.
- It will include 578 rental apartments which aligns with Leeds' goals for the South Bank area in which the district aims to create 8,000 homes and 30,000 jobs.



**You're all caught up!**