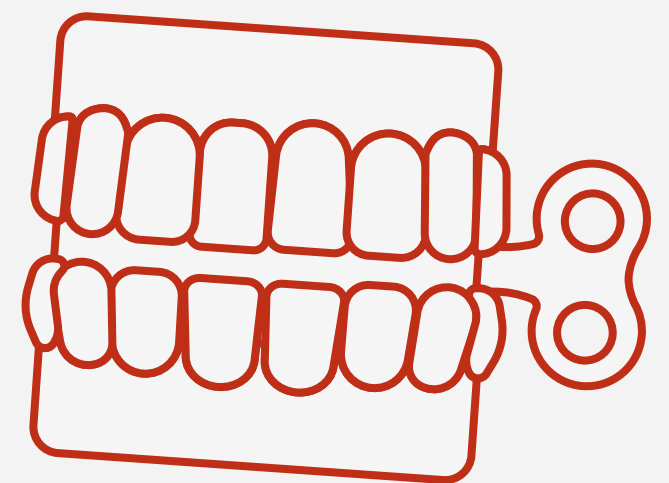


# Your bitesize construction bulletin

September 2025



# Housing work slower than expected

## What is it?

The construction sector is still waiting for housing demand to recover, amid concerns that it would be in a better place already.

## What should I know?

- The Home Builders Federation has reported that the decline in the number of planning applications is still ongoing.
- Head of Construction at the Construction Products Association, Rebecca Larkin, expects a modest recovery for the final quarter of 2025.



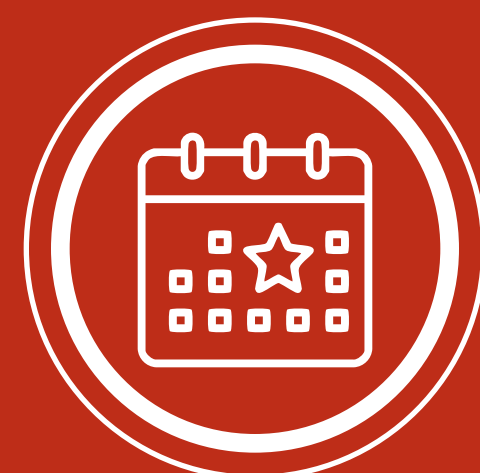
# Belfast city centre culture project

## What is it?

Belfast City Council has launched market engagement for its £84m Belfast Stories city centre scheme.

## What should I know?

- It's due to start on site in January 2027 and will run for just over four years, and the council is seeking early engagement.
- The scheme includes a cultural and tourism facility with a public space, visitor attraction, and a creative hub.



# Mental health consultation in progress

## What is it?

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has launched an industry-wide consultation to tackle poor mental health.

## What should I know?

- The UK construction sector suicide rate is nearly double the national average.
- The consultation was developed with Mates in Mind and the University of Warwick.
- Findings will shape a new guidance framework, expected Spring 2026.

**Market conditions  
and challenges**



# Contractors named for National Grid project

## What is it?

McLaughlin & Harvey has been appointed the main contractor for the new Electricity Transmission Control Centre (ETCC) in the Midlands.

## What should I know?

- Construction began in April, and the ETCC is expected to go live in 2028 and it's expected to create hundreds of jobs.
- The project consolidates multiple functions into one facility, to strengthen National Grid's operations as it connects more renewable sources to the grid.

**Market conditions  
and challenges**



**You're all  
caught up!**

