

## Spending Review – Housing Headlines

- This spending review covers only one year and focusses on managing the next phase of the pandemic, although there are also some longer-term, mainly infra-structure related announcements.
- The Government is not planning to continue the £20 a week Universal Credit top-up, introduced at the start of the pandemic, beyond March 2021. In addition, Local Housing Allowance Rates will be frozen in cash terms from March next year meaning housing benefit levels will fall back relative to local rents over time.
- A £7.1bn National Home Building Fund was announced. £2.3 bn of this is new funding, the remaining £4.8 bn relates to earlier announcements. This funding is for infrastructure, site assembly and remediation as well as other measures to support housebuilding over the next 4 years. The National Home Building Fund is in addition to the £12bn previously announced for the 2021 -26 Affordable Homes Programme
- As part of the levelling up agenda, changes to the methodology underpinning the Treasury's Green Book were published alongside the Spending Review, addressing previous bias in the appraisal of major projects in favour of London and the South East. £4bn Levelling-Up Fund for local projects was also announced which will be allocated through competitive bidding. Individual projects will be limited to £20m.
- An additional £151m was announced for homelessness prevention and to help end rough sleeping bringing the additional funding announcements for this programme in 2021/22 to £254m.
- The Government's commitment to supporting home ownership was underlined through a £5.3 bn funding package for the revised Help to Buy scheme between 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- There is also an additional £68m for Disabled Facilities Grants
- Some additional funding for councils, amounting to 4.5% in cash terms next year, to manage the cost pressures resulting from the pandemic. Local authorities will also be able to increase their council tax bills by 2 per cent without needing to hold a referendum, and social care authorities will be able to charge an additional 3 per cent precept to help fund pressures in social care.