

Policy Update

Issue #4

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COMMS &
LOBBYING FOCUS

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

- The NFA published its [Election Manifesto 2017](#) last week, highlighting our key asks for all political parties.

- In response to the Housing White Paper the NFA is continuing work with ARCH, CIH, CIPFA, two councils and one ALMO on developing bespoke deals with Government to increase council house building. We are now waiting to re-engage with civil servants after the election.

- The NFA responded to the [Housing White Paper](#).

- We have sent out our most recent Welfare Reform survey to all members with ARCH and CWAG and urge you to respond by **Wed 10th May**.

- [Colchester Borough Homes wins NFA Photography Competition](#) 2017 with a photograph of its oldest resident, May Bareham, at her home.

- Call for case studies from Channel 4: For households in the North East that are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of benefit changes. Please contact [Daisy Ayliffe](#) at [Channel 4](#) on 0771 495 6752.

News

The General Election will be held on 8th June.

Elections for new directly elected Mayors will take place in May in: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands, West of England. [DCLG note on devolution](#)

Housing News

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 was given Royal Assent on 27th April.

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has said in its latest [housing report](#) that the Government lacks ambition in addressing housing need and that the problems of homelessness and affordability are likely to persist for years.

[The Smith Institute report](#) on the opportunities and limits of devolution on housing.

The CIH & University of Sheffield research on the work the councils and housing associations do together to [tackle homelessness](#) will be published in autumn.

A Commons Library briefing has been published on [Cuts to Housing Benefit for 18-21 Year Olds](#).

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published a list of regulations and statutory instruments relating to the [Welfare Reform Act 2012](#)

[Research](#) on behalf of the NHF has found that eight out of 10 Mancunians now agree there is a shortage of affordable homes in Greater Manchester.

Universal Credit

The DWP has argued that three million households across the country will keep more of what they earn due to [change in the taper rate](#), the rate at which a Universal Credit payment reduces as someone moves into work. This will be lowered from 65p to 63p. The change means that some households could benefit by £425 a year.

A Commons Library Note on [Universal Credit](#) has been published.

The DWP published a series of guidance notes related to housing benefit and UC:

- [Universal Credit and Your Family](#)
- [Universal Credit if you have a disability or health condition](#)
- [How Universal Credit Supports Families](#)

Statistics

A new housing research centre (CaCHE) will bring together nine UK universities, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the CIH, the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The DWP has published [the latest experimental statistics](#) covering the total live caseload, starts and claims for Universal Credit.

DCLG data is available on estimates of [the number of dwellings in England as at 31 March 2016](#).

A Commons Library briefing has been published on [key housing market data](#)

As well as [an interactive tool](#) to compare housing supply statistics for local authorities.

NFA News

We hope that you all enjoyed the NFA Annual Conference as much as we did! A huge thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the event particularly to our helpers, Penny Allison from Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and Hannah Bensusan and Alex Simmons from Northampton Partnership Homes!

We look forward to seeing you all again at next year's conference.

There are some [pictures](#) from the Conference on our website and [guest blogs](#) written by our guest speakers for you all to enjoy.

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