



# NEWS FROM NHC: LEVELLING-UP WHITE PAPER PUBLISHED

**Today the Government published their long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper: *Levelling Up the United Kingdom*.**

The White Paper defined levelling up as an economic, social, and moral challenge with 12 distinct missions to be achieved by 2030, including:

- Boosting pride in place, satisfaction with town centres and engagement in local communities
- Improving the private rented sector, reducing the number of non-decent homes by 50%, and securing a path for renters into home-ownership
- Ensuring that every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with a long-term funding settlement

All missions will be given status in law, enshrined in a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Significantly, all policy across Whitehall will be aligned with levelling-up: the missions will “serve as an anchor for policy across government”.

The White Paper states: “Nowhere is the need for making opportunity more equal more urgent than in housing”. The policy programme for home ownership and housing quality is focused on:

- a. making homeownership a reality;
- b. improving housing quality; and
- c. reforming the planning system – with support for regeneration and for re-using brownfield land.

Commenting on the White Paper’s publication, Northern Housing Consortium Chief Executive Tracy Harrison said:

“We welcome the publication of the White Paper. Government has set out an ambitious agenda to deliver 12 levelling-up missions by 2030 – what they need now are organisations who know how to bring it to life. That’s the housing sector. Whether it’s restoring local pride, bringing up standards in the private rented sector or regenerating places - housing can work with Government to make rebalancing a reality for people and places across the North.”

The White Paper makes a series of commitments, including:

- For the first time ever, all homes in the Private Rented Sector will have to meet the Decent Homes Standard. Section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions will be abolished. Consultation will follow on introducing a landlords register – something the NHC has

recommended for some time - and will set out plans for a crackdown on rogue landlords.

- Scrapping the '80/20 rule' which leads to 80% of government funding for housing supply being redirected away from the North. This means that much of the £1.8bn brownfield funding will be diverted to transforming brownfield sites in the North and Midlands. The Metro Mayors will be allocated £120m of this funding.
- £1.5bn Levelling Up Home Building Fund, previously announced in the Spending Review, will provide loans to SMEs and support the UK government's wider regeneration agenda in areas that are a priority for levelling up.
- Homes England to be repurposed to include the regeneration of towns and cities. 20 towns and city centres are set to embark on, King's Cross-style regeneration projects, 'spearheaded' by Homes England. Sheffield has already been identified as one such place. Homes England will also be asked to play a wider role to support Mayors and local government to deliver new affordable homes and regeneration in their area.
- A 'devolution revolution' will start with new county deals for Durham and Hull & East Yorkshire, a new Mayoral Combined Authority deal for York and North Yorkshire, an expanded Mayoral Combined Authority deal for the North East, as well as a 'trailblazer' devolution deal with Greater Manchester.
- The £2.6bn UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will be decentralised to local leaders "as far as possible." The Spending Review announced UKSPF as the successor to EU structural funding to be worth around £0.87bn per year, increasing to £1.5bn per year by 2024-25. A recent Treasury Committee report has outlined that this will be a 40% reduction compared to the amount received between 2014-20 which averaged at £2.5bn per year. The Conservative manifesto pledged to at least match this funding.
- The Social Housing Regulation Bill will be given Parliamentary time following the publication of the social housing white paper.

**The NHC is committed to ensuring that housing is at the heart of a rebalanced country.**

We'll work with NHC members to ensure that housing's vital contribution is recognised and valued; and to secure the policy and resources necessary to make rebalancing a reality for people and places across the North. **Look out for more detailed analysis of the Levelling Up White Paper in February's edition of NHC Member News.**

**[Book Now: Levelling Up Conference: Housing at the Heart of a Rebalanced Country \(at no cost to NHC members\)](#)**

The Levelling Up White Paper has made a start on rebalancing geographic inequalities, however there is much more to be done. The Northern Housing Consortium in partnership with Karbon Homes and Bolton at Home, are bringing senior leaders together for a no-cost, full day conference to advance housing's role in improving public services, boosting living standards, restoring local pride, and empowering communities.

14th July 2022 | 10.00 – 16.00 | Hilton Leeds City