

21 December

To: All LEP Lead Contacts

Dear Colleagues,

GET BRITAIN BUILDING INVESTMENT FUND

The Government's Housing Strategy announced a Get Britain Building (GBB) investment fund to help stalled housing development sites to get off the ground. I am writing to draw your attention to the Prospectus for the fund that will be published tomorrow, inviting developers to submit a short Expression of Interest (EOI) application form by 30 January 2012.

The overall objective of the Fund is to unlock progress on stalled sites that have planning permission and are otherwise shovel-ready, supporting delivery of up to 16,000 new homes by December 2014 and supporting or creating jobs locally.

The Fund – which will be administered by the Homes and Communities Agency – will support firms which are not able to access development finance, including smaller and medium sized builders. The fund prioritises viable, good value for money schemes of at least 25 units with planning permission in place and schemes which will deliver units early. It will be available, but not limited to small and medium-sized developers via loans and equity investments. The Government will seek to recover its investments which will cover no more than 50 per cent of a project's total costs.

We understand that with the holiday period upon us the deadline for submitting EOI is only weeks away and therefore we have kept the application form simple. The Government recognises the urgent challenges facing the house building industry; that is why we have constructed a swift and streamlined process that will enable us to support starts on site as early as 2012.

This complements the Growing Places Fund well. Get Britain Building enables us to provide targeted support directly into developments to assist with risk and cashflow, including smaller developments. This sits neatly alongside the investments you will be making through the Growing Places Fund in infrastructure which unlocks housing and economic development. There may be opportunities for making connections locally, where sites would benefit from both schemes.

We would welcome any encouragement you can give to developers in your area who control stalled sites that could benefit from this initiative. A copy of the Prospectus, Press Notice and EOI form will be available at the following link: <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/get-britain-building>. Local HCA teams can provide further guidance and advice.

During the short listing process, the HCA who will manage the fund will approach respective local authorities in your area to get a better understanding of the schemes that have bid, and how this fits with local economic and investment priorities.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your members a Merry Christmas and successful 2012.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Greaves', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Dan Greaves
Deputy Director, Housing Supply and Markets