

Homes at the Heart campaign briefing

What is the #HomesAtTheHeart campaign?

Everyone deserves a safe, secure, comfortable place to call home. Not just now, in the middle of this crisis, but always.

Investing in social housing – in all its forms – makes this possible. It will also boost the economy, create jobs and improve people’s lives when our nation needs it most.

That’s why we’ve launched Homes at the Heart, a national campaign and coalition calling for a once-in-a-generation investment in social housing.

Homes should be at the heart of our national recovery.

Who’s involved in the campaign?

We’re working in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Housing, National Federation of ALMOs, Association of Retained Council Housing, and Crisis.

We’ve also secured over 60 supporters from across different sectors – from Carers UK to NatWest – who back our calls to put #HomesAtTheHeart of recovery.

You can find out more in [our joint letter to the Chancellor](#).

How can we put #HomesAtTheHeart of recovery?

Alongside this campaign, at the National Housing Federation (NHF) we’ve been working with our housing association members to identify five priorities for national recovery:

1. No return to rough sleeping.
2. A new generation of affordable homes.
3. Helping people to thrive at home.
4. A new drive to decarbonise social housing.
5. Change for communities across the country.

We’ve summarised each of these below, and you can read more detail in [our plan for housing’s role in social and economic recovery](#).



The NHF social housing plan for national recovery

Last year housing associations in England built more than 45,600 affordable homes – more than a quarter of all new homes, adding an estimated £2.4bn to the national economy and supporting more than 43,500 jobs. Through day-to-day management of their existing homes, housing associations also add an estimated £8bn to the national economy, supporting more than 130,000 jobs.

The social housing sector can act as a catalyst for change, and be at the heart of the nation's recovery from this crisis.

We've been working with our housing association members to identify five housing priorities for national recovery. We've summarised these here, and you can read more detail on each in our [recovery plan](#). The NHF would be delighted to organise a meeting with you to discuss this plan and how we can work together to address these priorities.

1. No return to rough sleeping

- In the short term, we need to find permanent homes and support for those who are temporarily housed.
- In the longer term, our ambition is to end homelessness in all its forms. This can only be achieved by building more social homes and ensuring support services are properly funded – as we set out below.

2. A new generation of affordable homes

- In the short term, housing associations need certainty to keep building during challenging times. The government should earmark up to £3bn of the new £12.2bn affordable homes budget to support the short-term recovery, with more flexibility on the tenure of new homes and when they are delivered.
- In the long term, the government should use this year's spending review to invest in a new generation of social and affordable homes to rent and buy. To kick-start this, the government should commit an additional £20bn in grant funding for 2022-32, creating a ten-year affordable housing fund.

3. Helping people to thrive at home

- Supported housing can transform lives – it can help people carry on living independently, improve life chances and help people manage through a crisis. It helps avoid costly hospital stays, prevents homelessness and supports employment.
- That's why we're calling for the government to ring-fence housing-related support funding and allocate £1.4bn a year to local authorities.



- Supply of supported housing is also reducing, when demand is increasing. So we're calling for supported housing to be part of a new generation of social homes.

4. A new drive to decarbonise social housing

- Decarbonising Britain's homes is an essential part of tackling climate change, and also saves residents money, boosts the economy and creates jobs.
- Housing associations want to be at the forefront of decarbonisation, but face challenges such as lack of finance and skills shortages.
- We're working with our members to explore how we can work with partners to drive forward the decarbonisation of social housing at scale – and are calling on the government to provide policy certainty, set ambitious standards and targets, and deliver a Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

5. Change for communities across the country

- During this unprecedented time, people's local communities have been more important than ever and housing associations will continue to work in and with their communities to help them bounce back. But the coronavirus crisis has highlighted the inequality that communities across England have faced for many years.
- We're calling on the government to hold firm to its commitment to level up the economy with a new, long-term, £1bn-a-year investment in regeneration, targeting funding where need is greatest.
- The government can also empower local stakeholders to kick-start recovery, and should support housing and employment services to work together to boost employment.

What can I do to support the campaign?

This is just the start of our campaign. Throughout the summer and autumn, we have a range of parliamentary activities organised and we would love you to be involved.

We are keen for you to speak up and support our campaign, both in parliament and in your constituencies. You can be part of the campaign by:

- Raising the need for investment in social housing through parliamentary questions and contributions.
- Meeting with housing associations in your constituency and supporting their work. The NHF are happy to put you in touch with a local housing association if you wish.



- Show your support on social media – we've added some resources to our [website](#) to help you do this.
- Taking part in campaign activities – more details on these will be available soon.

If you do want to get involved or have further questions, please contact us at PublicAffairs@housing.org.uk.

