

South West Region Newsletter



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Vic Pannell

It is with sadness I have report that Vic Pannell FICConstM. Passed away 18th December 2018

Vic was a member for over 50 years started as General Foreman and Clerk of works Association before becoming The Institute of Construction Management, He was a committee member for West Hants Chapter as it was known then, now South West Region. At our region Christmas part y's Vic entertained us all with his cross wards, Dig bates and quiz's. He wrote about his apprenticeship as a bricklayer during the second world war when material for house repairs was in demand on bombed buildings in Devon. Vic was born in Sidmouth before moving to Southampton where he worked as general foreman and then Southampton Technical College as Lecturer in bricklaying and general building. He is Sadly missed.

Eric Richards

It is also with sadness that I have to report that Eric Richards. FICConstM, Southern Region passed away on the 14th December 2018.

Eric organised his region Dinner and Dances also National Rallies over the years. He served as National President as well as Region Chairman, a long standing member who supported all the rallies and local events. He will be sadly missed

Homes England new Five-year plan

Modern methods of construction, the industry approved term for prefabrication, is set to be promoted by Homes England in its new five-year plan.



The government house-building agency also intends to provide financial support to smaller developers.

Homes England, previously the Homes & Communities Agency, has published a five-year plan setting out what it plans to do to help the government meet its target of 300,000 new homes a year being built across the UK by the mid-2020s.

The plan lists five priorities: unlocking land, unlocking investment, increasing productivity, driving market resilience and supporting local areas.

The push for prefabrication comes under 'increasing productivity'. A requirement to use modern methods of construction (MMC) will be incorporated in Homes England leases, it says. In the short term, Homes England plans to "support pilot projects where there is developer interest in testing MMC to learn lessons and understand costs". It will use development finance to encourage developers to put up prefabs to increase the capacity of the off-site manufacturing industry.

Over the next two years Homes England will provide up to £2.5bn development finance to smaller builders who are unable to access funding from banks through the £4.5bn Home Building Fund, it says. It will launch a Housing Delivery Fund with Barclays to provide £1bn of development finance to increase the pace and volume of housing delivery and support smaller builders. And it will increase its

investment with Lloyds Bank in the Housing Growth Partnership to provide up to £220m of equity finance for smaller builders. Tender and legal documents will also be made simpler on smaller sites to make the bidding process easier, it says.

In the longer term, Homes England plans to deliver at least 2,000 starts on site by March 2023, 4,000 starts a year by the mid-2020s and 23,000 completions by March 2030 through its land assembly fund, which should be self-financing by March 2023.

It also plans to unlock public and private land with capacity for up to 27,000 homes by funding on-site infrastructure and land remediation through its small sites fund and use its local authority accelerated construction programme to bring forward surplus council land for up to 32,000 homes.

Homes England chairman Sir Edward Lister said: "Ultimately, we need to disrupt the housing market. Homes England plans to be bold, creative and think big. We hope the whole of the housing sector – big and small, up and down the country – will join us for the next five years and beyond."

Salisbury Plain Wiltshire

Russell Roof Tiles is to deliver £1m-worth of pitched roof tiles and accessories for a £250m Ministry of Defence (MOD) housing scheme being built by Lovell Partnerships on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.



It is Russell's largest single project in five years and the largest MOD housing scheme currently under way in the UK. A total of 917

homes are being built in two Wiltshire towns, Larkhill and Ludgershall as well as the village of Bulford.

The scheme, which has an estimated completion date of spring 2020, is part of the Army Basing Programme, which involves about 4,000 British troops returning from Germany and relocating within the UK. Lovell was awarded the contract a year ago.

The development will comprise three- and four-bedroomed houses and a small number of bungalows, adapted for families that have special requirements.

Lovell Partnerships has appointed Russell Roof Tiles as the sole roofing supplier. Over the next 18 months, Russell Roof Tiles will supply tiles in two different profiles from its Commercial range - Grampian in Slate Grey and Double Roman in Terracotta.

New NHBC Standards

The upsurge in the use of modern house – building methods of construction has played a key role in determining new NHBC Standards coming into force in January.

The new guidelines will come into force for new homes where the foundations are begun on or after 1 January 2019.

NHBC Standards 2019 will introduce the first major update to Chapter 6.10 'Light Steel Framing' (LSF) since it was first published in 2005. Interest from the offsite sector and advances made by the light steel frame industry have driven the review and focused attention on areas where guidance for the appropriate use of technology is needed.

Chapter 6.2, which focuses on external timber framed walls and Chapter 8.1 - internal services in relation to boiler flow rates - have also been updated, along with several additional minor changes on a range of issues. NHBC standards & technical manager Paul Cribbens said: "NHBC's dedicated team have spent the past year developing technical content and updates to form the new standards, working with other partners and organisations from across the industry.

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