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Tomorrow the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister will launch 'Laying the Foundations: a housing strategy for England' which aims to strengthen the economy by breaking the current cycle in which lenders won't lend, builders can't build and buyers can't buy.

The strategy will detail how Government will help people get on the property ladder, address unfairness in social housing and ensure homes that have been left empty for years are lived in once again.

One key element of the strategy is a new £400 million 'Get Britain Building' fund to get stalled house building back on the move. This fund could unlock the construction of up to 16,000 homes, including up to an estimated 3,200 new affordable homes delivered through planning obligations.

The Get Britain Building fund will boost the confidence of housing developers hit hard by the downturn and has the potential to support up to 32,000 jobs.

Over the last few years house building has reached its lowest peacetime level since 1924 – and with many developers facing problems in getting hold of development finance to build these new homes, hundreds of 'shovel-ready' building sites across the country have stalled.

The £400 million Get Britain Building fund will invest in ready-to-go construction sites that satisfy our criteria. The Department for Communities and Local Government expect to issue a prospectus for the first round of bids by the end of the year. Developers will be expected to compete for the funds to ensure taxpayer cash is invested in projects that will deliver the best value for money. By targeting ready-to-go projects, the fund could provide the means to have diggers on-site by the end of July next year.

Please find below extracts from foreword of the housing strategy written by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister.

'Laying the Foundations: a housing strategy for England'

Extracts from the foreword by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister:

"When the Coalition was formed, we pledged that we would be a different kind of government: one that took decisions that were right for the long term, not right for the headline; that always acted in

Britain's national interest; that left this country stronger and fairer for our children. This Housing Strategy is the perfect example of that approach."

"One of the most important things each generation can do for the next is to build high quality homes that will stand the test of time. But for decades in Britain we have under-built. By the time we came to office, house building rates had reached lows not seen in peace-time since the 1920s. The economic and social consequences of this failure have affected millions: costing jobs; forcing growing families to live in cramped conditions; leaving young people without much hope that they will ever own a home of their own."

"These problems – entrenched over decades – have deepened over the past few years. The housing market is one of the biggest victims of the credit crunch: lenders won't lend, so builders can't build and buyers can't buy. That lack of confidence is visible in derelict building sites and endless For Sale signs. It is doing huge damage to our economy and our society, so it is right for government to step in and take bold action to unblock the market."

"This is a radical and unashamedly ambitious strategy – and it has two main aims. First, to help drive local economies and create jobs. Unblocking the market will provide a much-needed boost to employment. Second, these plans are designed to spread opportunity in our society. For too long, millions have been locked out of home ownership. We want to build an economy that works for everyone, one in which people who work hard and play by the rules can expect to own a decent home of their own. This goes right to the heart of what this Government is about."

"With this strategy, we will unlock the housing market, get Britain building again, and give many more people the satisfaction and security that comes from stepping over their own threshold. These plans are ambitious – but we are determined to deliver on them."