



Science and Technology Committee Report: Off-site Manufacture for Construction Debate on 12 December 2018

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Patel to move that this House take note of the Report from the Science and Technology Committee, *Off-site Manufacture for Construction: Building for Change* (2nd Report, HL Paper 169).

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, [Off-site Manufacture for Construction: Building for Change](#), 19 July 2018, HL Paper 169 of session 2017–19, pp 3–4; and pp 34–46

Summary, conclusions and recommendations made by the committee, who found “clear and tangible benefits of off-site manufacture for construction which makes a compelling case for its widespread use”. The committee reported that off-site manufacture can lead to better quality buildings, increased productivity and improved health and safety for workers. Recommended that the Government use “levers” available to encourage off-site manufacture, through mandating the use of certain construction techniques and making funding for housing associations and local authorities conditional on there being a proportion of homes built through such a construction method.

- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, ‘[Government Response to House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Report “Off-site Manufacture for Construction: Building for Change”](#)’, 9 October 2018, pp 1–16

Government’s response to the committee’s report which welcomed the committee’s recommendations. However, the Government argued that developing key performance indicators to compare on-site against off-site manufacture would be difficult, “given that [off-site] technologies are still being defined”.

- HM Government, [Industrial Strategy: Construction Sector Deal](#), 5 July 2018, pp 6–10

Executive summary of the Government’s construction sector deal, which outlined joint investment of £420 million from both the construction sector and the Government for the development of innovative construction materials, technologies and techniques.

- Infrastructure and Projects Authority and HM Treasury, [Proposal for a New Approach to Building: Call for Evidence](#), 26 November 2018, pp 1–10

Consultation on the Government’s proposals for a “platform approach to design for manufacture and assembly (P-DfMA)” in order to “drive the adoption of modern methods of construction”. DfMA is described as “a process by which building products, or components, are designed in a way that enables them to be made on a large scale using machinery and then put together in one place”.

- London Assembly Planning Committee, [Designed, Sealed, Delivered. The Contribution of Offsite Manufactured Homes to Solving London's Housing Crisis](#), 31 August 2018, pp 1–12; and Mayor of London, '[Letter to Chair of Planning Committee](#)', 11 January 2018

Summary of London Assembly's report and recommendations, finding that off-site manufactured housing "will be critical in bridging the gap between the number of new homes the traditional construction industry can deliver in London and the level of housing need that is anticipated in the next 20 years". Mayor of London's response outlined direct funding for "precision manufactured homes" through the city's affordable homes programme.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Housing: Construction](#)', 27 February 2018, 128208
- '[Oral Question on Housing: Offsite Manufactured Housing](#)', HL Hansard, 20 November 2017, cols 5–7
- [Debate on 'Housebuilders'](#), HL Hansard, 11 January 2018, cols 311–51
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Housing: Carbon Emissions](#)', 21 February 2017, HL5320

Press Articles and Comment

- Patrick Collinson, '[UK Housebuilding Revolution': £65,000 Prefab Homes Go Into Production](#)', *Guardian*, 30 November 2018
- Joey Gardiner, '[Can Prefab Homes Solve UK's Housing Crisis?](#)', *Guardian*, 26 January 2017
- Cherry Maslen, '[Ab Pre-fab: Modular Gets a Makeover](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 28 October 2017

Further Information

- Infrastructure and Projects Authority, [Transforming Infrastructure Performance](#), December 2017
- Construction Industry Training Board, [Faster. Smarter. More Efficient: Building Skills for Offsite Construction](#), April 2017
- Department for Communities and Local Government, [Fixing our Broken Housing Market](#), February 2017
- [Debate on 'Affordable Housing'](#), HL Hansard, 25 October 2018, cols 1032–61
- [Debate on 'Prefabricated Housing'](#), HC Hansard, 4 November 2015, 328WH–40

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