

Help to Buy scheme ends at the end of the year

The Help to Buy Mortgage Scheme, a major government scheme introduced by the former Prime Minister David Cameron, designed to prop up the UK housing market, is no longer needed, according to the Bank of England. Chancellor Philip Hammond has confirmed that the Government will not be extending the Help to Buy scheme beyond 2016.

The scheme has been available to buyers since 2014, and a total of 185,000 homes was bought under the scheme, 150,000 of which were properties for first-time buyers. The scheme allows lenders to offer loans with a deposit as low as 5%, thanks to support from the government. The use of the scheme decreased visibly and the alternative options to lend to those who only have a 5% deposit are available on the market outside the scheme at a similar if not cheaper price.

The scheme is set to close at the end of the year. The Government state that helps to get first time buy-



ers on the property ladder still exists in the form of other similar schemes like equity loans to buy newly-built homes or the Help to Buy ISA savings scheme.

Mark Carney, the Bank of England governor in the letter to Chancellor, Mr Hammond said: "Given the

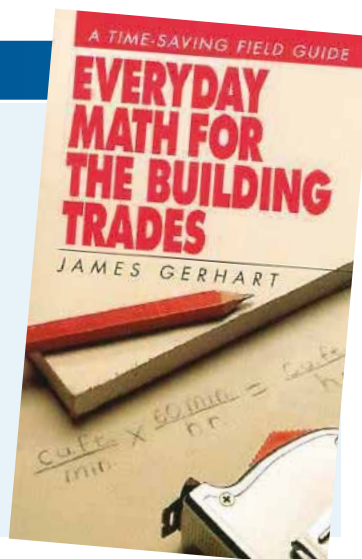
decreasing usage of the scheme over time, the Committee judges that the closure of the scheme would be unlikely, in current market conditions, to affect significantly the provision of finance to prospective mortgagees, including high loan-to-value borrowers."

BOOK REVIEW

Everyday Math for Building Trades by James Gerhart

Find solutions to everyday math problems with this excellent reference guide. It shows how to use math at work focusing on trades like electricians, plumbing, carpentry, roofing etc. It includes diagrams, tables, charts and examples of cost calculations. Information on how to calculate roof pitch, materials to build a wall or

stair risers etc. or instructions on valuable advice for labourers to use on site. Full of easy to remember tips and tricks. Packed with examples. It will definitely help to avoid wrong cost calculations which may lead to negative project yields. Broaden your math knowledge to succeed in building trade with this guide.



New CISRS Cards Poster Issued

CISRS has issued a brand new card information poster entitled 'Have you got the right card?' which is available to all free of charge by emailing enquiries@cisrs.org.uk.

The CISRS poster has been created in order to provide a quick reference point for those wishing to ensure that individuals carrying out scaffolding operations on their sites have completed the relevant training, experience and assessment and are holding the correct CISRS card.

The poster includes the full suite of CISRS cards; Scaffolding Labourer, Basic Access Systems Erector (BASE), Trainee, Scaffold, Advanced Scaffold, Scaffold Supervisor and Basic and Advanced Scaffold Inspector. It provides details of what each card should look like, how they are obtained and what work they entitle the card holder to carry out. It also highlights the importance of looking for the correct endorsement on the rear of the card for those operatives using Systems Scaffolding.

CISRS Scheme Manager, Dave Mosley said: "Having just re-issued the CAP 609 General Information booklet, which documents the CISRS scheme rules in detail, it made sense to update the posters which provide the basic information at a glance. They have always been popular and well received document and we will make them readily available to any interested party.

"The eye-catching poster is a must for all clients, employers, training providers, Health and Safety consultants etc. involved in the scaffolding sector."

To obtain copies of the new poster, or for a full list of approved CISRS & OSTs training providers, further details about CISRS card courses, mandatory 2017 CPD training, changes to courses following the introduction of SG4:15 and TG20:13, information and dates on courses available or to find out more about the CISRS scheme, please visit www.cisrs.org.uk or email enquiries@cisrs.org.uk.

Make sure those carrying out scaffolding operations on your site have completed the relevant training, experience and assessment and are holding the correct card.

CISRS
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
SCAFFOLDERS RECORD SCHEME

Have you got the Right Card?

Scaffolding Labourer
The holder of this card can only carry out relevant duties, in support of scaffolding operations.
If working off the ground they must do so from a completed, fully braced and double guard rail structure in conformity with the relevant standards.
They must not erect, dismantle or alter scaffold structures in any way.
Scaffolding labourers are required to attend a CISRS 1 Day New Entrant Course (COPS) and have passed a recognised FMS test.

Scaffold
The holder of this card has successfully completed Scaffold training, this enables them to erect, dismantle and alter scaffolding structures in conformity with the relevant standards.
Scaffolding labourers who have qualified on the site and have been assessed by a competent person (COPS) 2 day course, and have their qualifications endorsed on the rear of the card. Please note that the holder of this card is not authorised to erect, dismantle or alter scaffolding structures in any way.
Scaffolding labourers who qualify through the system route (e.g. Part 1, Part 2, Part 3) are only authorised to work with the system endorsed on the rear of the card.

Basic Access Systems Erector (BASE)
This is a limited skills card for non-scaffolding operations where they are required to erect, dismantle or alter simple scaffold structures.
These are limited to specific types of structure, location and system used. Any site and they must be trained in the relevant standards to do so.
Please note that the holder of this card is not authorised to erect, dismantle or alter scaffolding structures in any way.

Trainee Scaffold
The holder of this card is currently undergoing CISRS Scaffold training and assessment. They are not authorised to work on any part of a scaffold until they have passed the relevant assessment and are holding a CISRS Scaffold card.
Trainee scaffolders are required to attend a CISRS 1 Day New Entrant Course (COPS) and have passed a recognised FMS test.
The rear of the card will be endorsed with training completion in days Part 1 and 2. Training completion in both the 18 theory and practical system scaffold products. Please note that the holder of this card is not authorised to erect, dismantle or alter scaffolding structures in any way.
Now, the operative is considered to be a trainee and they have completed Part 1 and 2 training, (COPS) Level 2, CISRS assessment skills test and have passed a recognised FMS test.

Scaffold Inspector
The holder of the Basic Scaffold Inspector card is qualified to carry out necessary inspections of basic structures, independent scaffolds, scaffold towers, ladders, etc.
The Advanced Scaffold Inspector card allows the holder to carry out detailed inspections on both Basic and Complex scaffolding (e.g. independent scaffolds, temporary scaffolds, etc.).

Scaffold Supervisor
The holder of this card has successfully completed the CISRS 3 Day Supervisor course, the course is similar to the CISRS 1 Day Supervisor course, but is a full day. It covers Health and Safety legislation, Performance Standards, Basic Employment Rights, Supervisory Skills & Commercial Awareness.
Supervisors are required to act in a supervisory role on each scaffold and also submit a project which is used for the card assessment.

Systems Training
Systems Scaffold Product Training Scheme (COPS) 2 day course is available to recognised system scaffold products. Operatives who hold a BASE, Scaffold and Advanced Scaffold card are eligible to attend. These courses are for system scaffolding who have completed Part 1 training. Recognised Systems Products are sold into various types. Details of recognised system products, system types and the requirements for additional training can be found on the CISRS website.

For further information on CISRS course content, duration, life span of cards, CPD/renewal requirements, plus details of all accredited CISRS training providers and much more visit www.cisrs.org.uk

To check validity of cards call 0844 815 7223, email: enquiries@cisrs.org.uk or visit: www.citb.co.uk/cards-testing/how-do-i-check-card-details/online-card-checker/



The National Construction Academy (NCA) was officially opened by Nick Knowles on the 14th October 2016 in Derby City Centre. The academy has been set up to address the skills shortage in the construction industry by creating the training opportunities through the high quality, apprenticeship programmes.

The academy currently offers a traineeship and apprenticeship in bricklaying to 'Fast Track' candidates into the construction trade. The NCA traineeship offers candidates extensive support

and training to achieve their CSCS card and to understand the practical skills and knowledge. NCA is part of Aspire Achieve Advance (3AAA) an Ofsted Grade 1 training provider operating on a national basis. 3aaa has its headquarters in Derby and works with young people and employers in the Midlands.

The NCA offers free match and fill recruitment to select the most appropriate candidates for the particular business.

Traineeships

The NCA offers training which helps achieving CSCS cards and develop the practical skills and knowledge required to be the skilled labourer. The training lasts 12 weeks, including 6 weeks of training and 6 weeks of work experience with an employer. Each trainee will follow onto an ap-

prenticeship program with that employer. Pay is optional, 6 week commitment.

Apprenticeships

The level 2 apprenticeship in Trowel trades allows candidates to achieve their City and Guild L2 qualification and become a trained member of the worksite. The programme lasts for a minimum of a year and is studied on a day release basis. Minimum pay of £3.40 per hour for at least 30 hours per week, 12 week commitment.

For full details, requirements and benefits on the NCA traineeships and apprenticeships or to find out if an apprenticeship is right for you or your business, contact NCA apply@ncaapp.co.uk

Source: ncaapprenticeships.co.uk

ArchitEx 2016

Reserve your free tickets now!

With over 30 industry experts confirmed to speak in 8 conference sessions and a series of workshops at ArchitEx next month, this free-to-attend event for industry professionals is a worthwhile day or two out of the office.

ArchitEx brings together architects, specifiers, building designers, developers, planning officers and suppliers together in a regional setting to explore local opportunities, debate topical issues, learn from national and international case studies, discuss the latest design trends, network with new contacts and to source the latest technology, products and materials.

Launched in 2015, this annual event incorporates a free-to-attend high-level conference and

exhibition with built-in networking opportunities. The event is supported by Atlantic Gateway, Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Vision, CIOB, Builder & Engineer, CPD Certification Service and Vision Publications.

The conference-led exhibition will be held at the new Exhibition Centre Liverpool from Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th November, kicking off with an opening session looking at future of Liverpool and the Atlantic Gateway with speakers Max Steinberg CBE, Mark Kitts, Liverpool City Council and Kate Willard chair of the Atlantic Gateway board.

Ellen van Loon, Partner at OMA will be flying in to explain how they are creating a cultural anchor for Manchester with The Factory, whilst other topics covered focus on placemaking, the future of housing, the development landscape of the North West and practical advice on how to grow and develop your business.

A series of workshops will also run alongside the conference including sessions hosted by The Chartered Institute of Building who will offer career advice as well as looking at building conservation and heritage. The Local Authority Building Control, will also be running workshops to offer practical advice on how to work in a collaborative partnership to achieve compliance without compromise.

The exhibition will include a number of products and services from suppliers such as Multimesh, Cadspec, Ensor Building Products, Bluebeam Software, Flowcrete, Renson, A Proctor Group, Wicksteed Playgrounds, Wedge Group Galvanizing, ADO Metal Drainage, The Planning Portal, Heckmondwike and OM Safety Solutions.

There will be a drinks reception hosted by the Planning Portal offering a fantastic networking opportunity for all attendees. View the full programme of events and reserve your pass online at www.architexevents.com





Foundations for the future

Home Builders Federation in collaboration with ITN Productions produced new film “Foundations for Future”- a news style programme exploring innovations and best practice within the home building profession.

The Home Builders Federation (HBF) and ITN Productions have launched a news and current affairs-style programme. ‘Foundations for the Future’

looks beyond the bricks and mortar at the innovations and investments taking place across the home building sector. These range from securing finance for building sites to connectivity in new build homes. The programme explores the impact ‘NIMBYism’ has on planning permission and how to build homes today that will be sustainable in the long-term.

‘Foundations for the Future’ premiered during the UK Construction Week. Presented by national newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky, the programme features key industry interviews and news-style reports, along with sponsored editorial profiles of some of the leading organisations in the sector.

The way Homebuilders work with the Government is changing constantly. The Home Builders Federation wish to ensure senior politicians and government officials are aware of housing issues, the challenges faced by their members, and find methods that are workable for the industry to deliver on targets. In an interview, Peter Andrew, Deputy Chairman of the HBF discusses the support offered by Theresa May’s government to homebuilders and how the sector has bounced back after Brexit. Recognising and managing skills shortages and encouraging younger people to enter the sector is another key theme in ‘Foundations for the Future’. A total

of seven sponsored news-style reports feature in ‘Foundations for the Future’, championing innovation and forward-thinking sustainable solutions:

- **AES Sustainability Consultants** - Adding value to new build homes
- **Aldermore** - Championing bespoke housing developments
- **Gladman** - Sustainable development on greenfield sites
- **HWO Architects** - New solutions to London’s housing crisis?
- **Rectical Insulation** - Thermal insulation solutions

- **Sky** - Instant access to entertainment, phone and broadband in your new home
- **Virgin Media** - Improving the broadband infrastructure

Stewart Baseley, Executive Chairman, Home Builders Federation, said: “The house building industry faces a range of challenges, but as the film shows, it is tackling them head on. All the fundamentals are in place to allow the industry to look forward optimistically and deliver further increases in housing supply.”

Simon Shelley, Head of Industry News, ITN Productions, said “We’ve thoroughly enjoyed our partnership this year with the Home Builders Federation,

examining the major challenge of building desperately needed homes, and building them better through the development of skills and people in the sector, incorporating innovative solutions, and creating successful collaborations with planners and authorities. We hope the programme will be a means of sharing ideas and knowledge, and foster engagement between key organisations and people dedicated to shaping the right future for home builders and home owners.”

‘Foundations for the Future’ is now available at the Home Builders Federation’s website: www.hbf.co.uk/foundations

Source: www.hbf.co.uk