

# House price gap widest for years

## HOUSING

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THE GAP between house prices in London and other major cities including Leeds is at its widest point for 20 years, according to a new figures.

At £437,700 on average, property prices in London already cost a record of more than 12 times average earnings, having increased by 10 per cent over the last year, property analysts Hometrack said.

This is three times higher than Leeds where the average house price is said to be £144,200.

The growing difference between London and the rest of the country means someone could now buy around four

typical homes in Glasgow, or three in Leeds, or two in Bristol, for the price of one in London.

Hometrack said the growing price gap could help other city regions to attract new investment as investors and develop-

**"The pricing differential to London could well assist city regions."**  
Richard Donnell

ers sought to expand in more affordable markets.

It suggested the continued increase in house prices in the capital was likely to have a knock-on effect for other major cities, Hometrack said.

Buyers may reach a tipping point where they ditch the idea

of living in or near to London completely, and instead set their sights on another city outside the capital offering better value.

Richard Donnell, director of research at Hometrack, said: "London's price/earnings ratio is at an all-time high, while there remains value in most other regional cities.

The pricing differential to London could well assist city regions attract new investment as the cost of housing starts to influence decision making for both households and businesses."

Hometrack said momentum in the London market was now coming from commuter belt areas rather than central areas of the city.

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**INQUEST:** Callum Fretwell was one of the two people killed in the crash.

## Pair killed in high speed crash

TWO 'LOVABLE' friends died in a horrific high-speed car crash after celebrating one of their birthdays, an inquest heard.

Callum Fretwell, 23, and Luke Spragg, 25, were both killed instantly when the car they were travelling in crashed into a traffic light, street sign

and a tree on Wakefield Road in Featherstone on February 12 – Mr Spragg's 25th birthday.

An inquest was told Mr Fretwell was more than two times over the drink-drive limit when he crashed his orange Ford Focus ST at the junction of Wakefield Road and Common Side Lane at around

11.50pm. Collision investigator Robert Eyre said the car was travelling at more than 70mph when it crossed onto the wrong side of the road and collided with the kerb before crashing into a group of trees.

Deputy coroner Melanie Williamson recorded a verdict of accidental death.

## CHARITY

## African aid charity set for new era

A LEEDS charity which has helped 25,000 African children gain access to education since it was founded nearly 30 years ago is set for an online boost.

The Zimbabwe Educational Trust (ZET), in Skinner Street, aims to keep vulnerable young people in school and out of poverty and has launched a new website to spread its message.

ZET has so far spearhead-

ed initiatives such as advocating children's rights, nurturing girls' empowerment and promoting health and nutrition.

Founder Vulindlela Mkandla, who lives in Meanwood, said: "The Government can only go so far to satisfy the educational needs of its citizens and we want to help young people have as bright a future as possible."

ZET has supported over

20,000 at risk youngsters since 1987 and now hopes to showcase its partnerships with local grassroots projects to support Zimbabwean children on a new platform.

The site also shares the latest updates on ZET projects and visitors can connect directly with volunteer and fundraising opportunities. Visit [zimbabweeducationaltrust.org.uk](http://zimbabweeducationaltrust.org.uk).

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