

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring March 2021

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

Key dates

03 March: Budget

25 March: Easter recess

13 April: House returns

11 May: Queen's Speech – State Opening of Parliament

27 May: Whitsun recess (tbc)

7 June 2021: House returns (tbc)

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/03/21	Report	Devolution APPG	Levelling-up Devo. The role of national government in making a success of devolution in England. Here
16/03/21	Report	MHCLG	Devolution annual report 2019 to 2020 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published its devolution annual report 2019 to 2020 that brings together information about devolution agreements reached or implemented between government and areas between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. The full report can be accessed here

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
19/03/21	Press release	DCMS	Government launches new £5bn 'Project Gigabit' . More than one million hard to reach homes and businesses will have next generation gigabit broadband built to them in the first phase of a £5 billion government infrastructure project. Here
22/03/21	Written statement	DCMS	Project Gigabit - UIN HCWS866 Matt Warman, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Digital Infrastructure: Gigabit broadband is being rolled out rapidly, from one in ten households in 2019 to almost two in five today. The UK is on track for one of the fastest rollouts in Europe and for half the country to have access to gigabit speeds by the end of this year. More here

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
26/02/21	Report	BEIS committee	<p>The impact of Coronavirus on businesses and workers: interim pre-Budget report. Here</p>
01/03/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Aviation: Coronavirus - UIN 155136 Gavin Newlands, Paisley and Renfrewshire North (SNP): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential merits of introducing an aviation recovery package.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): The Chancellor regularly discusses a wide range of matters related to economic recovery with Cabinet colleagues. The Government recognises the challenging circumstances facing the aviation industry as a result of Covid-19 and firms experiencing difficulties can draw upon the unprecedented package of measures announced by the Chancellor, including schemes to raise capital and flexibilities with tax bills. In addition to economy-wide measures such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the aerospace sector and its aviation customers are being supported with almost £11 billion made available through loan guarantees, support for exporters, the Bank of England 's Covid Corporate Financing Facility and grants for research and development. This includes £8bn of guarantees provided by UK Export Finance.</p> <p>In addition, the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme launched on 29 January 2021 will provide support for eligible businesses, up to the equivalent of their business rates liabilities in the 2020/21 financial year, subject to certain conditions and a cap per claimant of £8m. This will help companies with their fixed costs and could unlock shareholder and lender support. Here</p>
02/03/21	Written question	DfE	<p>Environment Protection: Vocational Education - UIN 156604 Apsana Begum, Poplar and Limehouse (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to increase provision of low carbon vocational training.</p> <p>Gillian Keegan, Chichester (Con): The department is taking a number of steps to help deliver the provision needed to boost skills for green jobs. The Green Jobs Taskforce, following its launch on 12</p>

			<p>November last year, has aims to help the UK build back greener and deliver the skilled workforce needed to reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is a joint initiative between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Education. Details of the taskforce including a full list of members can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-taskforce-to-support-drive-for-2-million-green-jobs-by-2030.</p> <p>With help from the taskforce, we will ensure that our existing skills programmes (such as those set out in the recent Skills for Jobs White Paper and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister 's recent Lifetime Skills Guarantee) can be directed to support the net zero agenda and help to identify where the evidence tells us we might need to go further or faster. For example, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has convened a Green Apprenticeships Advisory Panel (GAAP) to guide the continued alignment of apprenticeships with net zero and wider sustainability objectives. The GAAP is employer-led and includes stakeholders with an interest in climate change and sustainability. It aims to help identify which apprenticeships directly support the green agenda and which may need to be refocused. The panel will also crucially identify where there are potential opportunities to create new green apprenticeships and identify employers to help take this work forward. Here</p>
02/03/21	Press release	FoE	Quarter of million green apprenticeships needed to fix youth unemployment crisis. Here
03/03/21	Press release	HM Treasury	Budget 2021: What you need to know. Here
03/03/21	Policy paper	HM Treasury	Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth. Here
03/03/21	Press release	HM Treasury	Budget 2021 sets path for recovery. Here
03/03/21	Speech	HM Treasury	Budget Speech 2021. Here
04/03/21	Press release	BEIS	BEIS in the Budget 2021. Here
05/03/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Business: Coronavirus - UIN 158202 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to support businesses that have become heavily indebted during the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Paul Scully, Sutton and Cheam (Con): The Government has provided an unprecedented business support package</p>

			<p>totalling over £280 billion. This includes billions in loans, grants, and business rates relief. As of 21 February 2021, businesses across the UK have benefitted from over 1.5 million Government-guaranteed loans worth over £72 billion to support their cashflow through the pandemic. We recognise that some borrowers will benefit from repayment flexibility, that is why we announced the Pay as you Grow measures, which give Bounce Back Loan borrowers more time and greater flexibility to repay their loans.</p> <p>We have also enabled lenders to extend the repayment period for Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) facilities beyond 6 years (up to a maximum of 10 years), where this is needed in connection with the provision of forbearance. CBILS term extensions are offered at the discretion of lenders. This measure is designed to help businesses that would struggle to repay their CBILS facility on their existing terms, by reducing monthly repayments.</p> <p>Grant funding has also been made available via Local Authorities to help businesses forced to close due to national and localised restrictions, and for businesses severely impacted by restrictions even if not required to close. This includes the Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment (CBLP), the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), and the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) schemes. Businesses can also access tailored advice through the Business Support Helpline, online via the Business Support website or through local Growth Hubs in England. Here</p>
09/03/21	Press release	Defra	<p>£40m second round of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund opens for applications. Here</p>
10/03/21	Oral answers	HM Treasury	<p>Economic Recovery - UIN 913175 David Simmonds, Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Con): What fiscal steps he is taking to support the UK's economic recovery. Rishi Sunak (The Chancellor of the Exchequer): Taking into account all the measures announced since last March, this Government are providing more than £400billion of direct fiscal support to the economy over this year and next. That will rank as one of the most comprehensive</p>

			and generous responses of any country anywhere in the world. More here
22/03/21	Press release	DCMS	Government announces allocation of £100 million to support recovery of leisure centres. £100 million has now been allocated to 266 local authorities across England, to support the recovery of publicly-owned leisure centres and gyms. Here
22/03/21	Report	Centre for Cities	Building back better: How to recover from Covid-19. Here
30/03/21	Press release	Cabinet Office	PM Build Back Better Business Council. Here

Environment – 25 year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
26/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Land Drainage - UIN 152440 Daniel Kawczynski, Shrewsbury and Atcham (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will take steps to help ensure that water companies take responsibility for drainage in order to prevent flooding.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Water companies, specifically sewerage undertakers, have a statutory duty under section 94(1) of the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide, improve and extend a system of public sewers to ensure that an area is "effectually drained". However, drainage alone cannot prevent flooding, and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act") establishes flood Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), to address the risk of flooding. The 2010 Act defines RMAs as the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Lead Local Flood Authorities, water and sewerage undertakers, highway authorities, district authorities and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). All RMAs must act in a manner that is consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The 2010 Act requires RMAs to cooperate with each other and gives them information sharing powers to facilitate cooperation. They have flexibility to form informal partnerships and to act on behalf of one another.</p> <p>In addition, the Environment Bill will require sewerage undertakers to produce Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans on a statutory basis which aim to</p>

			assist such partnerships and collaborative working. Plans will fully assess an undertaker's network capacity and set out the measures undertakers plan to take to develop their drainage and sewerage systems. Undertakers started developing plans on a non-statutory basis in 2018. Here
01/03/21	Press release	Defra	Interim Office for Environmental Protection to be launched. Here
01/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Biodiversity: Local Government - UIN 155004</p> <p>Dr Matthew Offord, Hendon (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of local authorities who have drafted and implemented Biodiversity Action Plans. []</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Whilst local Biodiversity Action Plans can be a useful means of coordinating and communicating action on biodiversity, there is no formal requirement on local authorities to produce one and the Government does not keep records of the number they produce.</p> <p>In 2020, the Government introduced new measures in the Environment Bill to establish Local Nature Recovery Strategies and provide a framework for the Nature Recovery Network. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new system of spatial strategies for nature, covering the whole of England. They are designed as tools to drive more coordinated, practical and focused action to help nature. All public authorities will be required to have regard to relevant strategies as part of a stronger duty on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Here</p>
03/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation - UIN 157173</p> <p>Dr Lisa Cameron, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (SNP): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to deliver on commitments made as part of the Leaders' Pledge for Nature at the United Nations General Assembly.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The UK Government is committed to working with partners around the world to implement the ten commitments under the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, which the UK co-created. To demonstrate our dedication to delivering on the Pledge</p>

			<p>commitments, in January 2021, the Prime Minister committed to spending at least £3 billion of the UK's International Climate Finance over the next five years, on climate change solutions that protect and restore nature and biodiversity.</p> <p>As you will be aware, Lord Goldsmith wrote to the devolved administrations prior to the Pledge's launch to seek their support. I am grateful for the support of the Scottish Government, as signalled in their recently published 'Statement of Intent' on post-2020 biodiversity, and I am also grateful to the Welsh Government for their support.</p> <p>In line with Pledge commitments, the UK Government is taking strong action on nature domestically as well as internationally. The environment is a devolved policy area and, in England, we are maintaining and extending key protections; introducing new legislation and new funding streams; we are supporting partnerships and we are working across Government to secure broad action. We have, for example, brought forward the first Environment Bill for more than 20 years which, alongside our strengthened Agriculture and Fisheries Acts, sets a new legal foundation for government action to improve the environment. Here</p>
08/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Bill - UIN 159361 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will publish a list of the members of the independent expert groups on Environment Bill air quality, water, biodiversity and waste and resources targets.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government is committed to setting targets through a robust, evidence-led process that seeks independent expert advice, provides a role for stakeholders and the public, as well as scrutiny from Parliament. We are working with stakeholders and will keep them apprised of the work of the independent experts as proposed targets develop.</p> <p>We have recently set up groups of independent experts, where they did not already exist for the priority areas set out in the Bill, to provide impartial advice on the</p>

			<p>analytical methods and evidence base being used to develop targets. We plan to publish the full list of independent experts, along with high level details of their work, such as terms of references and information on meetings in due course. Defra 's Science Advisory Committee and Economic Advisory Panel also play a part in advising on the target-setting process. The Government is in regular discussion with its independent expert groups, and some independent expert groups have met with stakeholders. Here</p>
08/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Bill - UIN 159362 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will publish the timetable for public consultation on targets to be set under Clause 1 of the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We expect to carry out a public consultation on proposed targets set under the Environment Bill in early 2022. This consultation will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share their views on the ambition, evidence and achievability of target proposals. The Government will then decide the final targets to be set. Target statutory instruments will be laid before Parliament by 31 October 2022 and come into force once approved. Here</p>
11/03/21	Written question	HoL/Defra	<p>Environment Bill - UIN HL13706 Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a revised impact assessment on the Environment Bill which takes into account any further powers proposed for (1) the Office for Environmental Protection, and (2) forest risk commodities.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: An impact assessment was published when the Environment Bill was introduced. The Government has introduced no further proposed powers for the Office for Environmental Protection in the Bill's progress. We will publish a full impact assessment specific to the amendments that were tabled to the Bill in November 2020 to introduce due diligence requirements for larger businesses using forest risk commodities in the UK. This impact assessment will outline the expected cost to business of complying with the due diligence requirements, taking</p>

			into account evidence received through public consultation. Here
11/03/21	Written question	HoL/Defra	<p>Office for Environmental Protection - UIN HL13705</p> <p>Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb:To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration has been given to provisionally establishing the Office for Environmental Protection ahead of the passage of the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: On 1 March we announced that from July, the Office for Environmental Protection, which is to be headquartered in Worcester, will be set up in an interim, non-statutory form, providing independent oversight of the Government's environmental progress and accelerating the foundation of the full body. Here</p>
16/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Plastics: EU Law - UIN 164422</p> <p>Dr Matthew Offord, Hendon (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department plans to take to extend measures contained in Directive 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Having left the EU, we now have the freedom to tackle single-use plastic items in ways that work best for us, including considering alternative approaches to the EU 's Single-Use Plastic Directive to deliver a better overall outcome. Where policy areas are devolved, the devolved administrations are taking their own approach. This year in England we are increasing our highly successful single-use carrier bag charge to 10p and extending it to all retailers, and in April 2022 a new plastic packaging tax will come into force to incentivise businesses to use 30% recycled plastic instead of new material in plastic packaging. We are also taking powers in the Environment Bill to create extended producer responsibility schemes; introduce deposit return schemes; establish greater consistency in the recycling system; better control the export of plastic waste; and give us the power to set new charges for other single-use plastic items. Here</p>

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Wood-burning Stoves: Air Pollution - UIN 154986</p> <p>Ian Mearns, Gateshead (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department plans to (a) increase (a) regulation and (b) powers of enforcement to restrict and reduce the use of wood burning stoves in private properties where the emissions are shown to contribute to poor air quality.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Domestic solid fuel burning is a major contributor to fine particulate matter emissions and, in line with our Clean Air Strategy, we recently introduced new legislation to restrict the sale of the most polluting solid fuels used in domestic burning. The aim of this legislation is to drive a transition to cleaner fuels: from wet wood to dry wood (which can reduce emissions by 50%), and from traditional house coal to smokeless coal and low sulphur manufactured solid fuels. We will also be ensuring that only the cleanest stoves are available for sale by 2022.</p> <p>In addition, the Environment Bill contains measures to help further reduce emissions from domestic burning by creating a simpler mechanism for local authorities seeking to reduce smoke emissions within their areas. My department will continue to review emissions from these sources and will monitor the impact of the new legislation, considering in due course any additional legislative measures that may be needed to reduce emission levels further. Here</p>
04/03/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Buses: Exhaust Emissions - UIN 160561</p> <p>Kerry McCarthy, Bristol East (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress has been made on meeting the target of 4,000 new zero emission buses during the current Parliament; and when the first order for those buses will be placed.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): As set out in the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and the Spending Review 2020 the Government will invest £120m in 2021-22 to start the delivery of the 4,000 zero emission buses announced by the Prime Minister last year. Together with existing funding for the All-Electric Bus Town or City, Government funding in the first year of the programme could support the purchase of</p>

			800 zero emission buses and the infrastructure needed to support them. Further details will be announced in the spring on how the £120m funding will be distributed. Here
09/03/21	Press release	Defra	£5 million boost for local authorities to tackle air pollution. Here
30/03/21	Written answer	HoL/DfT	Roads: Exhaust Emissions - UIN HL14382 The Earl Of Dundee: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce particulate pollution from urban traffic; and what assessment they have made (1) of the report by University College London and Harvard University et al Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion, published on 9 February, and (2) in particular the finding that exposure to fossil fuel air pollution accounts for 18 to 21.5 per cent of global deaths each year. Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: Our landmark Environment Bill introduces a duty to set a legally binding target for fine particulate matter, in addition to a further long-term air quality target. Achieving these targets will require action on a wide range of sources, including urban traffic and fossil fuel combustion. Specific measures will depend on what targets are set and ultimately the pathway and approach to achieving the targets. We will be carrying out a public consultation on proposed targets, which is likely to commence in early 2022. Here
30/03/21	Written questions	DfT	Clean Air Zones - UIN 172882 Mr Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking with the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government to allocate funding to local authorities in order to (a) facilitate the implementation of Clean Air Zones and (b) promote better public health across local communities. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): As a result of the 2017 NO 2 Plan, a number of local authorities have been required to assess what action is needed to address NO2 exceedances in their area. This is supported by £880 million to develop and implement required measures such as Clean Air Zones (CAZs). We engage with MHCLG where needed. The Clean Air Strategy set out a clear agenda for action to reduce people's exposure to harmful pollutants and our priority is to implement the commitments

			we made. We will apply our understanding of the longer-term implications from these unprecedented changes in living and working patterns to delivering our environmental commitments, including our Clean Air Strategy and the air quality measures in the Environment Bill. Here

Environment – climate change & net zero

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
25/02/21	Speech	EA	EA: Speech by Chief Executive of the Environment Agency. Here
01/03/21	Written questions	HM Treasury	Environment Protection: Economic Situation - UIN 157079 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reference to the Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity published on 2 February 2021, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for the Spring Budget of that report's recommendations on (a) managing the risk of exceeding the limits of what nature can sustainably provide to meet human demand; (b) the need to develop measures of economic success to account for depreciation of assets like the natural environment ; and (c) changes required to financial systems and institutions in order to preserve nature; and if he will make a statement. Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): At the start of an important year for global action to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, the Government thanks Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta for his independent Review and welcomes its recent publication as a strong example of UK thought leadership on an important environmental issue with clear – but often overlooked – economic consequences. The Government will examine the Review's findings closely, call on international partners to do the same, and respond formally in due course. The Chancellor's upcoming Budget will set out the next phase of the plan to tackle the virus and protect jobs. Here
01/03/21	Written questions	DfT	Roads: Construction - UIN 157971 Kerry McCarthy, Bristol East (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent assessment his Department has made of the environmental effect of the

			<p>planned expansion of England 's road network.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): The Government is investing record amounts in our road network. This is essential to supporting the journeys made by all road users and to keeping the economy moving. This investment is about keeping our roads in good condition though proper maintenance and renewals so that they remain safe and efficient. Any new enhancements to the network have to be rigorously assessed and go through the full statutory procedures, including necessary consultations and environmental assessments. Here</p>
01/03/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p>Carbon Emissions - UIN 155256</p> <p>Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions his Department is having with HM Treasury on funding for projects to reduce domestic carbon emissions ahead of the budget 2021.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly meets with my Rt. Hon. Friend Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer bilaterally and in Cabinet committees, including to discuss the Government's commitment to tackle climate change and working together to drive forward the net zero agenda. The Government's Spending Review 2020 publication clearly shows that achieving net zero is a priority outcome across Whitehall; a total of £12 billion was allocated to several departments to support the Government's aim of achieving net zero by 2050. Here</p>
02/03/21	Speech	EA	The Green Industrial Revolution needs Green Industrial Regulation: Here
02/03/21	Speech	Cabinet Office	Alok Sharma - Working towards a just global transition to clean energy. Here
03/03/21	Speech	Cabinet Office	Alok Sharma speaks at launch of UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks. Here
05/03/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p>Climate Change - UIN 158029</p> <p>Julian Sturdy, York Outer (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to implement climate change policies that (a) ensure the UK makes a proportionate contribution to limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures, (b) accurately record all UK carbon emissions, including shipping and</p>

			<p>aviation, (c) protect and restore diverse habitats along overseas supply chains and (d) restore UK soils, wildlife habitats and species populations.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): As the independent Climate Change Committee recognise, we have made world-leading progress in cutting our emissions while growing the economy. Since setting our net zero target, we have announced my Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister 's Ten Point Plan, as well as our Energy White Paper, which demonstrates our commitment to eradicating our contribution to climate change by 2050. For its carbon targets, the UK follows the agreed international approach for estimating and reporting greenhouse gas emissions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, which is for countries to report the emissions produced within their territories. We are considering recommendations on International Aviation and Shipping carefully ahead of setting the sixth carbon budget.</p> <p>The UK will be dedicating at least £3bn of international climate finance in the next five years to climate change solutions that protect and restore nature. In 2019, we launched the Global Resource Initiative (GRI) to advise on reducing the deforestation impacts of key UK supply chains. The GRI published 14 recommendations for action and government responded in November 2020, detailing how it would take this forward. As part of its COP26 Presidency, the UK also launched the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) dialogue to bring together governments of major producer and consumer countries to agree actions which reduce deforestation. We are committed to protecting and restoring the UK's natural environment. The 25 Year Environment Plan will create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat in England. We have also doubled funding to £80m for the Green Recovery Challenge Fund to kick start a programme of nature-based projects to address the twin challenges of halting biodiversity loss and tackling climate change. Here</p>
05/03/21	Written questions	BEIS	Climate Change: Citizens' Juries - UIN 158030

			<p><u>Julian Sturdy, York Outer (Con)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of citizens' assemblies on Government climate change policy.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: Achieving our net zero target must be a shared endeavour between governments, businesses and individuals. The Climate Assembly UK was commissioned by six Parliamentary Select committees to explore how the UK should reach net zero by 2050. We welcome the Climate Assembly UK's recommendations, which demonstrate strong public support for the Government's intention to deliver a UK economy which is stronger, cleaner, more sustainable and more resilient.</p> <p>In September 2020 we invited the Climate Assembly UK expert leads to present the Assembly's findings to officials. These briefings were attended by over 400 officials. We are looking closely at the Climate Assembly UK report's findings and government departments will consider its findings as we develop our plans for reaching net zero emissions by 2050. As we develop our plans for reaching net zero emissions by 2050, we will continue to engage the public on the changes that are needed to develop our ambitions on net zero and we will listen very attentively to feedback. <u>Here</u></p>
05/03/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p>Biofuels - UIN 158123</p> <p><u>Martyn Day, Linlithgow and East Falkirk (SNP)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of increasing the amount of biomass feedstocks produced domestically in the UK.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: In the Government's response to Climate Change Committee's (CCC) latest annual progress report to Parliament, we announced that we will publish a new Biomass Strategy in 2022. This will review what amount of sustainable biomass could be available to the UK, and how this resource could be best utilised across the economy to help achieve our net zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050.</p>

			<p>The Strategy will also assess the UK's current biomass sustainability standards, which are already some of the world's most stringent, to see where and how we can improve them even further. As part of the strategy development, we will be launching a "Call for Evidence" on the role of biomass to help achieve zero, enabling interested stakeholders to contribute their views on biomass. In addition, the Department will shortly be launching a £4m Biomass Feedstocks Innovation programme, investigating productivity innovations for domestic biomass supply. Here</p>
08/03/21	Written questions	HM Treasury	<p>Climate Change - UIN 159271 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to his response to the publication of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, published on 2 February 2021, what plans he has to use the UK's (a) co-presidency of COP26 on climate change action and (b) presidency of the G7 to help ensure that the natural world is prioritised in the global agenda.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): The Government welcomes the recent publication of the Dasgupta Review as a strong example of UK thought leadership on an important environmental issue with clear – but often overlooked – economic consequences. The Government will closely examine the Review's findings - including those concerning measures of economic success. It will call on international partners, including through the UK's Presidencies of the G7 and COP26, to do the same and will respond formally to the Review in due course.</p> <p>On 12 February, the Chancellor co-hosted the first G7 meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England and called on the G7 to take the lead in shaping support for vulnerable countries in 2021. He stated that climate and nature considerations will be a central priority for this year's Finance Agenda, paving the way to a truly green global economic recovery. The Chancellor urged his counterparts to match the UK's ambitions ahead of COP26 and stressed the importance of working together to support a smooth and effective transition of our economies to net zero. Here</p>

08/03/21	Speech	Cabinet Office	Energy Minister: Climate Action and Gender Equality: Can We Close One Gap Without the Other?' Here
09/03/21	Press release	BEIS	Over £90 million government funding to power green technologies. Here
09/03/21	Written question	BEIS/HoL	<p>Companies: Environment Protection - UIN HL13620</p> <p>Lord Taylor Of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that private companies retain interest in managing their environmental impact.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: Achieving our net zero goal requires all businesses to take action to reduce their emissions, while helping to grow the economy. We are working with our stakeholders to drive the ambitious action needed from UK businesses to help tackle climate change and reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>We are working across government, and with our regulators to drive progress on UK companies disclosing their climate risks in line with the framework provided by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. TCFD can deliver high-quality disclosure on how organisations will manage the material financial risks and opportunities arising from climate change and will improve transparency and encourage better informed pricing and capital allocation.</p> <p>The eyes of the world will be on the UK as we host the G7 and COP26 in 2021. Business action on climate is vitally important to achieving a successful summit and presidency, and is an excellent opportunity to showcase businesses as global leaders in tackling climate change in the year leading up to COP26. Our main ask ahead of COP26 in November is for businesses to set ambitious targets and take action to reduce emissions and build resilience, joining the Race to Zero. This sends the strongest signal to markets, supply chains, governments and consumers that businesses are committed to the transition. Here</p>
09/03/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Green Homes Grant Scheme - UIN 163264 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for what reason funding will be reduced to the</p>

			<p>Green Homes Grant scheme from April 2021.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: The funding of up to £1.5bn for the Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme was designed to provide a short-term economic stimulus for financial year 2020/21 while helping to tackle our contribution to climate change. In his Spending Review, my Rt. Hon. Friend Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer announced £320 million for the scheme in the next financial year, as part of funding to make homes and public buildings more energy efficient. <u>Here</u></p>
09/03/21	Written question	BEIS	<p><u>Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN 160756 Matthew Pennycook, Greenwich and Woolwich (Lab)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when he plans to publish an updated series of Carbon Values consistent with the Government's latest commitments under the Paris Agreement and Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: BEIS is reviewing the Carbon Values used to value emissions in government policy appraisal. Once this review is completed the updated values will be published later in the year. <u>Here</u></p>
09/03/21	Written question	BEIS	<p><u>Climate Change - UIN 160509 Ms Harriet Harman, Camberwell and Peckham (Lab)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent discussions he has had with the (a) Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and (b) local authority leaders on supporting councils' programmes for tackling climate change and improving climate resilience.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy recently met with my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, reiterating the commitment to tackling climate change and agreed for the two departments to continue working together to drive forward the Net Zero Agenda.</p> <p>The Secretary of State is clear that local places play a key role in tackling Climate Change and meeting the Net Zero target.</p>

			<p>In September last year, the then Secretary of State, Alok Sharma, met with the Mayoral and Regions Advisory Group with the next meeting taking place this month. This group is made up of Mayors, Devolved Administrations and the LGA with the purpose to engage with communities and emphasise their role in Climate Change, especially in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) as part of the UK Presidency's aim to make this inclusive and representative of all of the UK. Here</p>
10/03/21	Written answers	Defra/HoL	<p>Tree Planting - UIN HL13665</p> <p>Baroness Fookes: ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to provide written guidance (1) to informal organisations, and (2) to individuals, about the suitability of trees for planting according to (a) habitat, (b)(i) carbon, and (ii) pollution, control, and (c) the encouragement of (i) insects, and (ii) other forms of animal life.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: The United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS) is publicly available and is relevant to all those with an interest in UK forests and woodlands. It outlines the context for forestry and sets out the approach of the UK governments to multi-purpose sustainable forest management, which includes defining standards and requirements. Tree planting could be for amenity and recreation, to help in the fight against climate change, improve habitat including soil and water, help biodiversity, manage and enhance historic environment, or for timber production. A series of Practice Guides support the Standard and new guides on riparian woodland management and climate change adaptation are forthcoming.</p> <p>Those interested in planting trees for carbon sequestration and to help battle climate change can access guidance on the need to incorporate the effects of climate change into woodland design and management. Forest Research also provide the ecological site classification which helps inform appropriate tree species choices by site.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission continues to refine and improve the environmental protection measures and processes for woodland</p>

			<p>creation by assisting the planning and planting of woodlands in lower risk areas of England. Last year the Forestry Commission updated the Low Risk Map for woodland creation to better represent the distribution of best and most versatile agricultural land and introduce a buffer for all Sites of Special Scientific Interest. This map will continue to be reviewed and updated as further information becomes available. The Forestry Commission also published priority habitat guidance. This provides an overview of priority habitats, their definitions, and includes characteristic plants and their associated national vegetation communities. The Forestry Commission will also be publishing guidance on Woodland Creation Design and Natural Colonisation. Here</p>
10/03/21	Written answers	Defra/HoL	<p>Climate Change - HL13678 Lord Lilley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the findings which informed the Environment Agency's "reasonable worst case scenario for climate", referred to by the Agency's Chief Executive Sir James Bevan on 23 February. Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: Sir James Bevan's speech was underpinned by published evidence from a variety of national and international reports that includes the UK Climate Projections 2018 announced by the Secretary of State for Defra in November 2018. The Environment Agency has recently published research showing an upward trend in extreme floods at two-thirds of their river level monitoring stations and that this trend is 90% certain at over a fifth of locations. Here</p>
11/03/21	Written questions	DfT	<p>Aviation: Climate Change - UIN 164564 Catherine West, Hornsey and Wood Green (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to reduce domestic air travel in line with the Government's climate change policies. Robert Courts, Witney (Con): Aviation must play its part in delivering the UK's net zero commitment, but we also need to retain the ability to fly. The aviation sector is vital for the whole of the UK economy in terms of connectivity, direct economic activity, trade, investment and jobs, particularly where viable alternative modes of travel are limited. The Government is already supporting a variety of technology, fuel and market-based measures to address</p>

			aviation emissions, and we will consult on a Net Zero Aviation Strategy in the coming months, setting out the steps to reach net zero aviation emissions by 2050. Here
11/03/21	Written questions	Dft	<p>Railway Network: Carbon Emissions - UIN 164565</p> <p>Catherine West, Hornsey and Wood Green (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to reduce emissions on the rail network.</p> <p>Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con): In the last three years, we have completed almost 700 single track miles of rail electrification in England and Wales, and we will continue to electrify more of the rail network in the years ahead. We are also supporting the development of new low-carbon technologies in rail, like battery and hydrogen trains, through innovation funding and research.</p> <p>The Network Rail-led Traction Decarbonisation Network Strategy (TDNS) provides advice about which decarbonising technologies (electrification, hydrogen, or battery) could best suit each part of the network. TDNS will inform the Department's forthcoming Transport Decarbonisation Plan and Government decisions about the scale and pace of rail decarbonisation between now and 2050. Emissions from diesel trains can contribute to air pollution hotspots, with stations being an area of particular concern. The Government is funding a new £4.5 million air quality monitoring network, which will measure air pollution in up to 100 stations across the GB railway. Once established, the network will help to identify priority locations where air quality improvement measures are most needed. Here</p>
11/03/21	Written questions	HoL/DfT	<p>Airports: Construction - UIN HL13891</p> <p>Baroness Bennett Of Manor Castle: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of plans to expand Leeds Bradford airport in view of the recommendation in the report by the Committee on Climate Change The Sixth Carbon Budget: Aviation, published in December 2020, that "there should be no net expansion of UK airport capacity unless the sector is on track to sufficiently outperform its net emissions trajectory and can accommodate the additional demand"; and what steps they are taking to ensure that data are held on all proposed expansion plans at UK airports.</p>

			<p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: Proposals should be judged by the relevant planning authority taking careful account of all relevant considerations, including environmental impacts and proposed mitigations. The Government cannot comment on specific planning applications, such as that for Leeds Bradford airport, so as not to prejudice any consideration of proposals should they come before Ministers in the future. The Government is carefully considering all the Climate Change Committee's advice, including on aviation emissions, ahead of setting the sixth carbon budget. Here</p>
11/03/21	Oral answers	DfT	<p>Transport Decarbonisation - UIN 913250 Deidre Brock, Edinburgh North and Leith (SNP): What recent steps his Department has taken to help facilitate transport decarbonisation in line with the Government's commitments (a) to the Paris agreement and (b) for COP26.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Con): The transport decarbonisation plan will set out transport's contribution to net zero. We are also delivering ambitious international COP26 campaigns. More here</p>
15/03/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p>Industry: Carbon Emissions - UIN 166294 Dr Alan Whitehead, Southampton, Test (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether the Clean Growth Grand Challenge Missions that flowed from the Industrial Strategy remain Government policy.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): 'Build Back Better: our plan for growth' sets out the Government's new framework for how the UK will build back better and drive longer-term growth following COVID-19. The plan, and its range of supporting strategies, take forward the best elements of the Industrial Strategy within a new approach that reflects the changed context since 2017. As part of this transition, we will consider how best to evolve the 2017 Grand Challenges and missions within a forthcoming Innovation Strategy; ensuring any renewed approach is responsive to, and able to effectively deliver current priorities – including our climate and clean growth commitments. Here</p>
16/03/21	Press release	DfT	<p>Jet Zero launches £15million competition to reduce aviation emissions. Here</p>

16/03/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN HL13854 Baroness Worthington: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review regulations regarding fluorinated gas ahead of COP26.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: The UK has a legal requirement to review the Fluorinated Gas (F gas) Regulation and publish a comprehensive report of this review by no later than 31 December 2022. Defra is now beginning internal work on the review and intends to engage with stakeholders on this work later this year. The review will include an assessment of opportunities for faster and further action on phasing down F gases, beyond our already world leading measures, to help meet the Government's net zero 2050 target. Here</p>
16/03/21	Oral answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Climate Change Committee: Carbon Budget Report – Vol 811 Baroness Blackstone: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Climate Change Committee Sixth Carbon Budget report, published on 9 December 2020, what plans they have (1) to engage the public on, and (2) to ensure the behaviour changes included in, the recommendations of that report.</p> <p>Lord Callanan (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy): My Lords, we are engaging the public on the challenge of net zero through regular dialogues, consultations and online advice services. In 2020, we launched the brand Together for Our Planet, with a dedicated website, stakeholder engagement and a push across government digital channels. We are also developing policies to support people to make greener lifestyle choices, such as buying an electric vehicle or insulating their home, which will form part of the upcoming sectoral decarbonisation plans. More here</p>
17/03/21	Press release	BEIS	<p>Major blueprint to create green jobs and slash emissions from industry, schools and hospitals. Here</p>
17/03/21	Written question	Dft	<p>Railways: Carbon Emissions - UIN 167936 Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment has he made of the role of the National Infrastructure Bank in decarbonising the rail network.</p> <p>Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con): A core objective of the new UK Infrastructure Bank</p>

			will be to tackle climate change, and in particular to support the transition to net zero by 2050. The Bank will focus on the economic infrastructure sectors covered by the National Infrastructure Strategy, which includes transport, and will make case-by-case assessments on the merits of individual projects. As the Bank is established, my department will work with HM Treasury to assess its role in supporting rail decarbonisation. Here
17/03/21	Consultation outcome	BEIS	Consultation outcome - Proposals for a green gas levy. The government response to the Future support for low carbon heat consultation incorporates a response to this consultation. Here
17/03/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>National Infrastructure Bank: Environment Protection - UIN 166379 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the (a) process and (b) timeline are for (i) setting the investment principles of the UK Infrastructure Bank, and (ii) assessing the potential for the bank's environmental objectives to be broadened to include projects that would enhance the UK's natural capital and exclude projects that would deplete it; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): As set out in the Budget, the UK Infrastructure Bank will pursue two core policy objectives through its interventions in the infrastructure market: to help tackle climate change, particularly meeting our net zero emissions target by 2050; and to support regional and local economic growth. While the Bank's initial focus will be on climate change mitigation and resilience, the Government will review the case for broadening this to include other areas such as improving the UK's natural capital, before bringing forward legislation to put the Bank on a statutory footing.</p> <p>The Government will also publish a set of investment principles for the Bank later in the spring to help the bank assess what projects should be in scope. The Bank will make independent investment decisions and will need to develop assessment criteria to decide which investments it will take forward in line with its objectives. This will include environmental impacts. Following its launch later in the spring, the Bank will publish a document, developed in</p>

			consultation with HM Treasury, setting out its approach to assessment in pursuit of its mandate. Here
18/03/21	Statement	Cabinet Office	<p>COP26: COP26 Update COP26 has published a written ministerial statement on a COP26 Update from COP26 President-Designate Alok Sharma: Following the creation of a full-time COP26 President role, I wanted to update the House on the governance, structure and parliamentary accountability of the role. The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith, Minister for Pacific and the Environment, will be the COP26 spokesperson in the House of Lords. The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, will also address COP26 questions in the House of Commons and is the UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency. Katherine Fletcher MP has been appointed as my Parliamentary Private Secretary. More here</p>
18/03/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Climate Change: Carbon Emissions - UIN 167361 Siobhan Baillie, Stroud (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how the (a) UK and (b) Global carbon budget informs the Government's Climate Change mitigation strategy. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Government's independent advisers, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) advised that reaching net zero by 2050 is the right target for the UK, which is consistent with the UK's contribution to reducing global emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. We followed their advice by legislating for net zero in 2019.</p> <p>When setting our carbon budgets, which step down towards our 2050 target, we follow the requirements set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. These include taking account of several matters including "scientific knowledge about climate change" and "circumstances at European and international level". We will carefully consider the CCC 's advice ahead of setting the sixth carbon budget in legislation later this year. Following the setting of this target, we will be publishing a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26 which sets out the Government's</p>

			vision for how we transition to a net zero economy. Here
22/03/21	Report	Environmental Audit Committee	Net Zero impossible unless urgent action taken on energy efficiency this decade. In its latest report, Energy Efficiency of Existing Homes, the Environmental Audit Committee states that the Government's legally enshrined target to be net zero carbon by 2050 will hit a roadblock unless urgent action is taken to improve energy efficiency of homes this decade. Here
22/03/21	Press release	BEIS	Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding. Here
22/03/21	Written question	COP26	Climate Change: Local Government COP 26 - UIN 169982 Imran Ahmad Khan, Wakefield (Con) : To ask the President of COP26, what discussions he has had with local authorities in (a) West Yorkshire and (b) England in the run up to COP26. Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con) : I have set up the UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council with mayors and local leaders from across the UK. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is a member along with mayors and local authority leaders from across the UK and the chair of the Local Government Association. We met most recently on 15 March to discuss how mayors and local authorities could contribute to the Together for our Planet Campaign, and I look forward to engaging further with the group in the run up to COP26. Here
23/03/21	Press release	BEIS	Over 50,000 households to get warmer, greener homes in £562 million boost. Here
24/03/21	Press release	EA	More than 300,000 homes are better protected from the effects of climate change compared with 2015, the Environment Agency has announced today. Here
24/03/21	Written statement	BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a written ministerial statement on Energy Policy update 1. Here
24/03/21	Written statement	BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a written ministerial statement on Energy Policy update 2. Here
24/03/21	Written question	BEIS	Carbon Emissions - UIN 169958 Luke Pollard, Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with

			<p>the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency on his proposals for Net Zero Plus. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The UK is already leading the fight against climate change as we work to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In setting our carbon emission ambitions, we take advice from the Climate Change Committee, an independent, statutory body which provides expert advice to Government on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Adapting to, as well as mitigating, the inevitable changes in our climate is vital. That is why, we are taking robust action to improve the resilience of our people, economy and environment.</p> <p>We work closely with Defra on net zero and support their work on adaptation. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State engages regularly with his DEFRA counterpart, including through the Climate Action Committees. The Environment Agency plays an important role in helping to achieve net zero, for example, as part of the Nature for Climate Fund, it is planting over 850,000 trees, providing carbon savings that will help us to achieve our carbon budgets, while also helping to improve flood resilience and air quality and provide habitat for wildlife. Here</p>
26/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Floods: Climate Change - UIN 171762 Imran Ahmad Khan, Wakefield (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what engagement he has had with UK communities with an increased risk of flooding due to climate change in the runup to COP26.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Flood and coastal erosion risk management is a devolved matter and the information provided therefore relates to England only. Ministers meet regularly with communities, honourable members of this house, and a range of organisations representing those at risk from flooding and coastal erosion. Adapting to the current and predicted changes to our climate is vital. The UK is already leading the fight against climate change by delivering on our world-leading target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Whilst we continue to reduce our contribution to climate change, we are also taking robust action to improve</p>

			<p>the resilience of our people, economy and environment.</p> <p>Last year, the government published a long-term Policy Statement which sets out our ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk. The Policy Statement includes five policies and over 40 supporting actions which will accelerate progress to better protect and better prepare the country against flooding and coastal erosion in the face of more frequent extreme weather as a result of climate change. For example, by the end of March 2021, we will have invested £2.6 billion to better protect more than 300,000 homes from flood and coastal erosion risk between 2015/16 and 2020/21.</p> <p>From April 2021, the government will double the amount it invests in the flood and coastal defence programme in England to £5.2 billion over six years. This will provide around 2,000 new defence schemes to better protect a further 336,000 properties. In addition, up to £170 million will be spent to accelerate work on 22 shovel-ready flood defence schemes that will begin construction before the end of 2021/2022. We are also investing an additional £200 million in the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. This will help over 25 local areas over six years to take forward wider innovative actions that improve their resilience to flooding and coastal erosion.</p> <p>Adaptation and Resilience is one of the priority action areas for COP26. This will build upon the 'Call for Action' which was launched at the United Nation's Climate Action Summit (UNCAS) in September 2019. Hosting COP26 provides the UK with an unrivalled opportunity to capitalise on its reputation in science, innovation and climate leadership to drive forward change on a global stage. Here</p>
29/03/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Clean Air Zones - UIN 172882 Mr Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking with the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government to allocate funding to local authorities in order to (a) facilitate the implementation of Clean Air Zones and (b)</p>

			<p>promote better public health across local communities.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): As a result of the 2017 NO 2 Plan, a number of local authorities have been required to assess what action is needed to address NO2 exceedances in their area. This is supported by £880 million to develop and implement required measures such as Clean Air Zones (CAZs). We engage with MHCLG where needed.</p> <p>The Clean Air Strategy set out a clear agenda for action to reduce people's exposure to harmful pollutants and our priority is to implement the commitments we made. We will apply our understanding of the longer-term implications from these unprecedented changes in living and working patterns to delivering our environmental commitments, including our Clean Air Strategy and the air quality measures in the Environment Bill. Here</p>
30/03/21	Statistics	ONS	<p>The Office for National Statistics has published statistics on Low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK: 2019. Here</p>

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
26/02/21	Report	Environmental Audit Select Committee	<p>Government to consider requiring online marketplaces to collect old electronics from customers. Here</p>
26/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Waste Management: Local Government - UIN 152604</p> <p>Wera Hobhouse, Bath (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what funding and resources the Government will make available to local authorities to support the requirement for weekly food waste collections set out in the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government will ensure that local authorities are resourced to meet net costs arising from new statutory duties. This will include the additional costs associated with the requirement to separately collect food waste at least once a week from households, introduced through the Environment Bill. This includes upfront transition costs and ongoing operational costs. We are carrying out a new burdens assessment for this policy</p>

			and will provide further detail on new burdens funding in due course, following the outcome of the second consultation on recycling consistency, which we are preparing to launch in the spring. Here
05/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Packaging: Recycling - UIN 158210 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to add flexible packaging to the proposed core list of materials required to be collected for recycling from households and businesses in England from 2023.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We want to see recycling of plastic film increased. The Environment Bill states that waste collection authorities in England must arrange for the collection of a core set of materials, including plastics, from households and businesses. We are launching a consultation in Spring 2021 on proposals to introduce plastic films into kerbside collections as part of the plastic recyclable waste stream. The inclusion of plastic films will simplify recycling for householders and will contribute to achieving the ambitious plastic packaging targets that will be placed on producers through our proposal for Extended Producer Responsibility. Here</p>
05/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Packaging: Recycling - UIN 158211 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent estimate he has made of the volume of flexible packaging that would be diverted from landfill in the event that such material was collected for recycling from households in England from 2023.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In our 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy we committed to taking actions to help stimulate private investment in reprocessing and recycling infrastructure, as this will help to meet the target of 65% of municipal waste to be recycled by 2035. In 2019 we consulted on such actions. Namely, a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers, extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and consistency in recycling collections, which will be legislated for using primary powers granted by the Environment Bill. These measures will stimulate investment in improved collection and sorting, increasing the</p>

			<p>supply of higher quality materials needed to support investment in domestic reprocessing infrastructure. In addition, HM Treasury 's Plastic Packaging Tax will increase the demand for recycled plastic, further stimulating investment in domestic reprocessing.</p> <p>We plan to undertake second consultations on a DRS for drinks containers, packaging EPR, and consistency in recycling collections this spring. Flexible packaging will be considered as part of EPR and consistency consultations. Initial analysis suggests flexible packaging could make an important contribution to plastic packaging recycling rates, and therefore reduce the amount of this material that would otherwise be sent to landfill or energy from waste facilities. We will be setting out our policy proposals and supporting analysis in relation to flexible packaging in these consultations. Here</p>
09/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Minerals: Recycling - UIN 162699 Luke Pollard (Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport (Lab)): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to use powers contained in the Environment Bill to set a recycling target for critical minerals.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In line with our Resources and Waste Strategy, published in December 2018, we are taking steps to move from a linear economy to a more circular economy. This includes by seeking new legislative powers under the landmark Environment Bill that will enable us to: drive design for durability, reparability and recyclability of products such as electronics; require provision of information on products such as material content, including Critical Raw Materials (CRMs); and put in place extended producer responsibility schemes. We are also working with BEIS to utilise our repatriated EU powers to introduce eco-design measures relating to energy-using products. Our planned review of, and subsequent consultation on, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations, and the Batteries Regulations, will also provide an opportunity for consideration of the management of critical minerals. At this stage there are no plans to use the powers in the Environment Bill, or other</p>

			<p>powers, to set specific recycling targets for critical minerals.</p> <p>In addition, in November 2020 we announced 5 new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centres as part of £30million of Government investment. Two of these relate to CRMs and metals – the UKRI Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centre for Technology Metals, and the UKRI Interdisciplinary Centre for Circular Metal. These will explore how reusing waste materials could deliver environmental benefits and boost the UK economy. Here</p>
09/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Minerals - UIN 160722</p> <p>Steve Double, St Austell and Newquay (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to develop a critical mineral circular economy industry in the UK.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In line with our Resources and Waste Strategy, published in December 2018, we are taking steps to move from a linear economy to a more circular economy. This includes by seeking new legislative powers under the landmark Environment Bill that will enable us to: drive design for durability, reparability and recyclability of products such as electronics; require provision of information on products such as material content, including Critical Raw Materials (CRMs); and put in place extended producer responsibility schemes. We are also working with BEIS to utilise our repatriated EU powers to introduce eco-design measures relating to energy-using products. Our planned review of, and subsequent consultation on, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations, and the Batteries Regulations, will also provide an opportunity for consideration of the management of critical minerals. At this stage there are no plans to use the powers in the Environment Bill, or other powers, to set specific recycling targets for critical minerals.</p> <p>In addition, in November 2020 we announced 5 new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centres as part of £30million of Government investment. Two of these</p>

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10/03/21	Debate	HoC	Landfill Sites (Odorous Emissions) - Vol 690 Aaron Bell, Newcastle-under-Lyme (Con): I beg to move that leave be given to bring in a Bill to introduce a presumption against planning applications for new landfill sites liable to cause odorous emissions in built-up areas; to set limits for odorous emissions from landfill sites; to make provision for the payment of compensation by site operators to local residents when emissions exceed those limits; and for connected purposes. More here
12/03/21	Press release	Environmental Audit SC	Packaging sector and experts questioned on the introduction of deposit return schemes. Here
12/03/21	Written question	Defra	Litter - UIN 165442 Sir Greg Knight, East Yorkshire (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to help reduce the (a) level of unlawful littering and (b) number of offences of leaving litter that are undetected; and if he will make a statement. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We published the Litter Strategy for England in April 2017, setting out our aim to deliver a substantial reduction in litter and littering within a generation. The Litter Strategy brings together communities, businesses, charities and schools to bring about real change by focusing on three key themes: education and awareness; improving enforcement; and better cleaning and access to bins. A copy of the Litter Strategy can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-strategy-for-england . Littering is a criminal offence, with a maximum penalty on conviction of a fine of up to £2,500, although most enforcement is carried out by local authorities using fixed penalties. Following consultation, with effect from April 2018, we increased the maximum fixed penalty for littering from £80 to £150, and from April 2019, the minimum fixed penalty was also raised from £50 to £65. We have also

			<p>given councils in England (outside London) new civil penalty powers to tackle littering from vehicles. We have no plans to make further changes to the level of fixed penalties or fines for littering at this stage.</p> <p>It is up to local councils to decide how they use their enforcement powers. We have published improved guidance to councils and others on the use of their fixed penalty powers for littering and related offences. We are also seeking powers in the Environment Bill to ensure that enforcement powers are always used with a high degree of professionalism. Enforcement action should only be taken when it is in the public interest to do so. Enforcement action should always be proportionate, and penalties should not be issued for trivial offences or accidental littering. Here</p>
12/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Food: Waste Management - UIN 162672 Wera Hobhouse, Bath (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to implement weekly food waste collections in the immediate future ahead of New Burdens funding to support that collection which will be made available in 2023.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Environment Bill will require local authorities to arrange for the separate collection of food waste from households in England, at least once a week. Businesses and organisations will also be required to arrange for the separate collection of food waste. Ahead of implementation of this and other reforms to increase the consistency of recycling collected from households and businesses, we continue to work with local authorities, businesses, WRAP and other stakeholders to ensure the successful roll-out of separate food waste collections.</p> <p>The Government will ensure that local authorities are resourced to meet net costs arising from new statutory duties. This will include the additional costs associated with the requirement to separately collect food waste, including upfront transition costs and ongoing operational costs. We are carrying out a new burdens assessment for this policy and will provide</p>

			<p>further detail on new burdens funding in due course, following the outcome of the second consultation on recycling consistency, which we are preparing to launch in the spring. In this consultation, we expect to seek further views on implementing separate food waste collections, including transition timelines for local authorities and businesses, as well as statutory guidance for waste collectors. Here</p>
15/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Food and Gardens: Waste Disposal - UIN 163726 Julie Marson, Herford and Stortford (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to review section 45(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that local authorities are not suspending the collection of food waste with garden waste in the event that those local authorities charge for garden waste.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We support frequent and comprehensive rubbish and recycling collections. Under new measures in the Environment Bill, local authorities will be required to arrange for the collection of a core set of recyclable waste streams from households, which will include food and garden waste. Under these new requirements, food waste must be collected at least once a week and both food waste and garden waste must always be collected separately from the dry recyclable waste streams and residual waste. The food waste and garden waste streams should be collected separately from each other unless it is not technically or economically practicable or there is no significant environmental benefit in doing so. Following support in response to our initial consultation, we are preparing a further consultation on consistency in recycling to be published this spring, which will include further detail on timelines for local authorities to comply with these new requirements.</p> <p>With regards to charging, under section 45(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012, local authorities can recover a reasonable charge for the collection of garden</p>

			<p>waste. As part of the upcoming consultation, we will be seeking further views on whether local authorities should be able to charge for the collection of garden waste, or whether a free minimum collection service should be provided. Irrespective of the outcome of this, the requirement on local authorities to collect food waste at least once a week will mean that there will be no option for local authorities to suspend the collection of food waste under any circumstances, including where food waste and garden waste are collected together. Here</p>
15/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Fly-tipping: Rural Areas - UIN 163672 Sajid Javid, Bromsgrove (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to tackle fly tipping in (a) Bromsgrove District and (b) other semi- rural communities.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Fly-tipping is a crime which blights local communities and the environment, and we are committed to tackling this unacceptable behaviour. The role of central Government is to enable and support local action by providing a clear legal framework of rights, responsibilities and powers and setting national standards. We continue to work with partners to tackle this crime. In recent years we have bolstered local authorities' powers to tackle fly-tipping, such as by introducing the power to issue fixed penalty notices and to stop and seize vehicles of suspected fly-tippers.</p> <p>Our 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy set out our strategic approach to prevent, detect and deter waste crime. We committed to strengthen sentences for fly-tipping and to develop a fly-tipping toolkit to help local authorities and others work in partnership to tackle this crime. We also committed to increasing penalties for fly-tipping in our manifesto. Budget 2020 allocated up to £2million to support innovative solutions to tackle fly-tipping. We are exploring funding opportunities and priorities at this stage, including considering the role of digital solutions and supporting research into the drivers, deterrents, and impacts of fly-tipping in urban, suburban and rural areas.</p>

			<p>We are also preparing a number of legislative reforms to tackle waste crime, which will help to tackle fly-tipping. We are taking forward the commitment in the Resources and Waste Strategy to develop proposals for the reform of the waste carrier, broker, and dealer regime. We are working with industry and the regulator and we intend to consult later this year. We also intend to consult on the introduction of mandatory electronic waste tracking. This will help to ensure that waste is dealt with appropriately and to reduce the incidence of waste crime and fly-tipping. The Environment Bill also includes several measures to help tackle waste crime. The Bill will ensure agencies and authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. These new powers will help ensure waste criminals, such as illegitimate waste operators reliant on fly-tipping for income, are held accountable for their actions. Here</p>
15/03/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Fly-tipping - UIN HL13744 Lord Greaves: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the two per cent increase in the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities in England in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19; and what plans they have to address fly-tipping. Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Fly-tipping is a crime which blights local communities and the environment, and we are committed to tackling this unacceptable behaviour. We have not made an assessment of the 2019/20 fly-tipping statistics for England published by Defra. A detailed breakdown of the incidents reported by local authorities is however available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fly-tipping-in-england.</p> <p>We continue to work with partners to tackle this crime. In recent years we have bolstered local authorities' powers to tackle fly-tipping, such as by introducing the power to issue fixed penalty notices and to stop and seize vehicles of suspected fly-tippers. Our 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy set out our strategic approach to prevent, detect and deter waste crime. We committed to strengthen</p>

			<p>sentences for fly-tipping and to develop a fly-tipping toolkit to help local authorities and others work in partnership to tackle this crime. We also committed to increasing penalties for fly-tipping in our manifesto.</p> <p>Budget 2020 allocated up to £2million to support innovative solutions to tackle fly-tipping. We are exploring funding opportunities and priorities at this stage, including considering the role of digital solutions. We are also preparing a number of legislative reforms to tackle waste crime, which will help to tackle fly-tipping. We are taking forward the commitment in the Resources and Waste Strategy to develop proposals for the reform of the waste carrier, broker, and dealer regime. We are working with industry and the regulator and we intend to consult later this year. We also intend to consult on the introduction of mandatory electronic waste tracking. This will help to ensure that waste is dealt with appropriately and to reduce the incidence of waste crime and fly-tipping.</p> <p>The Environment Bill also includes several measures to help tackle waste crime. The Bill will ensure agencies and authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. These new powers will help ensure waste criminals, such as illegitimate waste operators reliant on fly-tipping for income, are held accountable for their actions.</p> <p>Here</p>
16/03/21	Written questions	Defra	<p>Packaging: Recycling - UIN 164420 Dr Matthew Offord, Hendon (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when his Department plans to announce whether (a) food and drink cartons and (b) plastic bags and film will be included in the core set of recyclable products collected by local authorities from 2023.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Following support in response to the first consultation on increasing the consistency materials collected for recycling in England, the Environment Bill states that local authorities must make arrangements for a core set of recyclable waste streams to be collected from households. This core</p>

			<p>set includes: paper and card; plastic; metal; glass; food waste; and garden waste. We are preparing to publish a second consultation on recycling consistency this spring, which will seek further views on the materials to be included under the definition of each recyclable waste stream, which will include seeking views on the inclusion of food and drink cartons, and plastic films. We will also seek further views on transition timelines for local authorities in the upcoming consultation. Here</p>
16/03/21	Written questions	Defra	<p>Plastics: Beaches - UIN 164389 Sir Geoffrey Cox, Torridge and West Devon (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help alleviate the environmental impact of (a) polystyrene bodyboards and (b) other disposable beach products.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We know that when polystyrene bodyboards and other items used at the beach are littered they can have harmful impacts on the environment. The Government is committed to encouraging local solutions for local problems. This is particularly relevant in dealing with litter and fly-tipping issues, which require a local approach, tailored to the characteristics of the area and the community in which the problems occur.</p> <p>The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse advises councils to monitor and clean beaches below the high-water mark areas as appropriate. Beaches present unique challenges. They may not always be cleaned to the maximum standard possible because of the terrain, conditions, accessibility and the need to be sensitive to habitats. The duty body should do as much as is practicable. It is recommended that councils and beach managers are aware of the different types and nature of beaches in their areas and carry out regular monitoring and suitable cleaning.</p> <p>The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England published in December 2018 sets out our plans to reduce plastic pollution and move towards a more circular economy. This builds on the commitment in the 25 Year</p>

			<p>Environment Plan to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. The measures set out in the Strategy will help our society move away from a 'take, make, use and throw' approach regarding resources and materials to where we reuse, recycle, and repair more and waste less. Our Environment Bill will enable us to significantly change the way that we manage our waste and take forward a number of the proposals from the Resources and Waste Strategy.</p> <p>In general, we prefer to help people and companies make the right choice, rather than banning items outright. There may, however, be times when a ban is appropriate as part of a wider strategic approach. Which is why we introduced measures to restrict the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in October 2020. We will continue to review the latest evidence on problematic products and/or materials to take a systematic approach to reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastic products. Here</p>
16/03/21	Written questions	Defra	<p>Food: Recycling - UIN 167204 Dan Jarvis, Barnsley Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans her Department has to introduce a food recycling system across (a) the UK, (b) England and (c) in each local authority. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Waste and recycling policy is a devolved matter. Following support in response to initial public consultation, the Environment Bill will require all local authorities in England to arrange for the separate collection of food waste from households, at least once a week, so that this material can be collected for recycling. Businesses and organisations in England will also be required to arrange for the separate collection of food waste for recycling. We will be launching a further consultation on recycling consistency this spring. In this consultation, we will be seeking further views on implementing separate food waste collections, including transition timelines for local authorities and businesses, and statutory guidance for waste collectors.</p>

			The Government will ensure that local authorities are resourced to meet net costs arising from new statutory duties. This will include the additional costs associated with the requirement to separately collect food waste. Here
17/03/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Tobacco: Litter - UIN HL13808</p> <p>Baroness Hayman Of Ullock: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs incurred by local authorities in dealing with cigarette butts when littered or disposed of in public bins; what that cost is estimated to be; and what is the basis on which any such cost has been calculated.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: We believe that the tobacco industry must take responsibility for the litter created by its products. Our most recent composition survey found cigarette butts represent 66% of all littered items. Preliminary research has shown an estimated cost to UK local authorities and other duty bodies of £40m per annum for the collection and disposal of littered cigarette butts, rising to £46m when including those disposed of in public bins. This has been drawn from an analysis of local authority spend on litter using local authority revenue outturns, litter composition studies across the UK and local authority surveys and interviews. This research is undergoing quality assurance and will be published in due course.</p> <p>We have made clear that we will continue to monitor the available evidence on smoking related litter and that if it continues to be a significant environmental concern we will reflect on the steps Government can take to ensure that the tobacco industry takes more responsibility. Measures in the Environment Bill will allow us to legislate for an extended producer responsibility scheme for tobacco products, if such an intervention was considered necessary. Cigarette and tobacco product packaging will be covered by the upcoming reforms to the packaging producer responsibility scheme. Here</p>
18/03/21	Press release	Defra	<p>Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme</p> <p>Proposals to support sustainable fashion unveiled on Global Recycling Day. Here</p>
26/03/21	Press release	WRAP	<p>Managing resources sustainably is key to cutting UK greenhouse gases. Here</p>

29/03/21	Press release	BEIS	Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes. Here
30/03/21	Written questions	Defra	<p>Plastics: Packaging - UIN 169057 Elliot Colburn, Carshalton and Wallington (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to encourage a shift from conventional single use plastic films to certified compostable alternatives; and if he will set a target under the Environment Bill to accelerate that process.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): While compostable materials may be seen as a solution to reduce the impact of waste, they can also be more environmentally damaging than non-compostable materials if disposed of incorrectly. The Government is concerned that, some claims about the compostability of plastic-based products cannot be verified. In order to consider impacts carefully, Defra and BEIS published a call for evidence to help us consider the development of standards or certification criteria for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics, and to better understand their effects on the environment and our waste management system. We are currently analysing responses to the call for evidence and will publish the Government's response shortly.</p> <p>Our Resources and Waste Strategy sets out our ambition to transition to a circular economy by keeping resources in the system for longer and extracting maximum value from them, before recycling materials when they can no longer be reused. We have recently published consultations on introducing Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers. These consultations will inform policy that will transform the economic incentives on packaging producers by encouraging an increase in the amount and quality of unavoidable plastic packaging that is recycled or reused, so driving up recycling rates and helping to move us towards a circular economy.</p>

			<p>We are also preparing to launch a second consultation on increasing the consistency of materials collected for recycling from households, businesses and other organisations in England, which will seek views on the collection and disposal of compostable and biodegradable materials and the recycling of plastic films.</p> <p>The UK Plastics Pact is targeting plastic film as a coordinated effort involving the entire value chain to fix the system to create a circular economy for single use plastic films. Last year the Plastics Pact published a roadmap 'Creating a Circular Economy for Flexible Plastic Packaging, which sets out the high-level actions that need to be taken by each part of the value chain. The new roadmap sets out five key areas where efforts should be focused in order to develop a circular economy for flexible plastics. These are: designing packaging that can be recycled and sorted; capitalising on existing front of store collection points; implementing kerbside collection by all local authorities; investing in sorting and reprocessing capacity and capabilities; and ensuring strong and stable end markets for recycled flexible plastic packaging.</p> <p>The Environment Bill requires the Government to set at least one long-term, legally binding target in four priority areas, including Resource Efficiency and Waste Reduction. This will not be focused on increasing the use of compostable plastics, instead the target will ensure a holistic approach to all materials. These targets will be set following a robust, evidence-led process that includes seeking independent expert advice, a role for stakeholders and the public, and parliamentary scrutiny. Here</p>
30/03/21	Press release	Defra	Government explores next steps to clean up tobacco litter in England. Here

Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
11/03/21	Press release	Conservative party	Greg Clark: Why we formed our industrial strategy. What it achieved. And how my successor can build on it. Here

23/03/21	Report	Industrial Strategy Council	<p>Industrial Strategy Council Annual Report 2021.</p> <p>In this final Annual Report, the Industrial Strategy Council assesses progress on the 2017 Industrial Strategy and draws out lessons for the Government as it moves forward with its new plan. It makes ten recommendations based on the Council's collective experience and its extensive programme of work over the past 2½ years. Here</p>

Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/03/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Flood Control: Finance - UIN 156311 Daniel Kawczynski, Shrewsbury and Atcham (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on increasing financial support for flooding in the upcoming Budget.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government committed at Budget 2020 to a doubling of our investment in the next floods capital programme, providing long term certainty on funding levels up to 2027. Starting from April 2021, we will invest £5.2 billion in a six-year capital investment programme for flood and coastal erosion risk management to build over 2,000 new flood defences. This investment will better protect 336,000 properties, including 290,000 homes, from flooding and coastal erosion by 2027.</p> <p>In addition, up to £170 million will be spent to accelerate work on 22 shovel-ready flood defence schemes that will begin construction in 2020 or 2021, which will provide an immediate boost to jobs supporting local economies as communities recover from the impact of coronavirus. A further £200 million will be invested in the Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. This will help over 25 local areas over six years to take forward wider innovative actions that improve their resilience to flooding and coastal erosion. Here</p>
12/03/21	Press release	Defra	<p>New tree fund for local communities announced. Here</p>
16/03/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Local Enterprise Partnerships - UIN 164493</p>

			<p>Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether Local Enterprise Partnerships are planned to be involved in the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Eddie Hughes, Walsall North (Con): The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be a flagship policy in delivering this Government's commitment to level up the country and will target the people and places most in need across the UK. It will be focused on our domestic priorities and seize the opportunities that come from our departure from the EU and the bureaucracy of EU structural funds. Spending Review 2020 set out the main strategic elements of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in the Heads of Terms. We will publish further details about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in a UK-wide Investment Framework later in 2021 and its funding profile will be set out at the next Spending Review. Here</p>
17/03/21	Debate	MHCLG	<p>Levelling Up - Vol 691</p> <p>Eddie Hughes (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) With permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will make a statement on levelling up. Levelling up is central to the Government's agenda, and we are working with local areas to ensure that every region, every city and every town will recover from covid-19 and level up. Investing in our local areas has the potential to improve lives, give people pride in their communities, bring more places across the UK closer to opportunity, and ensure that everywhere can build back better. More here</p>
17/03/21	Written questions	MHCLG	<p>Towns Fund - UIN 166320</p> <p>Jon Trickett, Hemsworth (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will publish the criteria for allocation of funds to local authorities as part of the Towns Fund.</p> <p>Eddie Hughes, Walsall North (Con): As part of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund, 101 towns were selected to develop proposals for Town Deals. Details of this selection process are available in the summary of accounting officer advice, published on gov.uk here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-selection-summary-of-accounting-officer-advice/towns-fund-</p>

			<p>selection-process-summary-of-accounting-officer-ao-advice.</p> <p>Those 101 towns were asked to submit Town Investment Plans setting out their vision and strategy and detailing the projects they would like the Towns Fund to support. In June 2020, the Department published further guidance detailing the process and assessment criteria for those Town Investment Plans. This guidance can be found here:</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/926422/Towns_Fund_further_guidance.pdf</p> <p>All towns have now submitted their proposals and 52 towns have so far been offered Town Deals. Assessment continues for the remaining towns, with further announcements expected in due course. Here</p>
17/03/21	Written answers	HoL/MHCLG	<p>Stronger Towns Fund - UIN HL13904</p> <p>Lord Greaves: To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the £1 billion Towns Fund announced in the Budget 2021, published on 3 March, each English region will receive, and how much of the £1 billion Stronger Towns Fund, launched on 4 March 2019, each English region received.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh: The Towns Fund is helping level up the country, driving economic regeneration, productivity and growth. At Budget 2021, the Chancellor announced 45 Town Deals. Regional totals can be found in the Budget document (attached) here:</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966868/BUDGET_2021_-_web.pdf.</p> <p>These are in addition to the first seven Town Deals announced in October 2020, further details of which can be found (attached) here:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-town-deals-worth-almost-180-million-announced. The Towns Fund superseded the previously announced Stronger Towns Fund, ensuring even more places could be supported. No funding was committed through that Fund. Further Town Deals will be announced in due course. Here</p>
18/03/21	Ongoing inquiry	HoL/Public Services committee	<p>Levelling Up & Public Services Inquiry (ongoing): Here</p>
18/03/21	Debate	HoL	<p>Levelling Up - Vol 811</p>

			<p>(Not attributed): “With permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will make a Statement on levelling up. Levelling up is central to the Government’s agenda, and we are working with local areas to ensure that every region, every city and every town will recover from Covid-19 and level up. Investing in our local areas has the potential to improve lives, give people pride in their communities, bring more places across the UK closer to opportunity, and ensure that everywhere can build back better. More here</p>

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/03/21	Press release	TCPA	Government must plan for zero-carbon new communities. Here
01/03/21	Briefing paper	TCPA	Publication: Unlocking the potential of large-scale new communities. Here
02/03/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Planning Permission: Cultural Heritage - UIN 156369 Julian Sturdy, York Outer (Con) : To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of strengthening protection for heritage in the planning system.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): The Government is committed to the ongoing protection of the historic environment. In our recent Planning for the Future White Paper, we have set out our intention to review and update the planning framework for listed buildings and conservation areas, to ensure their significance is conserved while allowing, where appropriate, sympathetic changes to support their continued use and address climate change. Here</p>
09/03/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Planning Permission: Carbon Emissions - UIN 163164 Dawn Butler, Brent Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that planning applications granted by local authorities are not having a detrimental effect on efforts to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s expectations for how planning can contribute to a low</p>

			<p>carbon future in England. We intend to go further, which is why the Planning for the Future White Paper proposed reform of the Framework so that the planning system can most effectively play a role in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change at a local and national level. The reforms to the planning system will help local authorities to improve the delivery and quality of homes and neighbourhoods, set within the drive towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050. We are currently collating, reviewing and analysing the responses to the consultation.</p> <p>From 2025, the Future Homes Standard will ensure that new homes produce at least 75% lower CO2 emissions compared to current standards. These homes will be zero-carbon ready with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency. We will also not amend the Planning and Energy Act, allowing local authorities to continue to set energy efficiency standards that go beyond the Building Regulations. All levels of Government have a role to play in meeting our net zero goal. Local authorities are rising to the challenge and 98% of local authorities are already voluntarily taking action to reduce emissions from their areas, or from their own estate. Here</p>
29/03/21	Consultation submission	LGA	<p>LGA submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code. Here</p>

Transport – automated & electric vehicles, hydrogen

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
30/03/21	Written answer	HoL/DfT	<p>Electric Vehicles: Charging Points - UIN HL14417</p> <p>Lord Porter of Spalding: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of local councils in delivering electric vehicle charging infrastructure to meet the Government's 2030 target to end the sale of new diesel and petrol cars in the UK.</p> <p>Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Local councils have an important role to play in the transition to zero emission driving and we are working with them to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030. The Government's On-</p>

			<p>Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) is available to all UK local authorities to provide charging infrastructure for those without private parking. More than 105 local authorities have already taken advantage of the scheme, funding more than 3,800 chargepoints. We encourage local authorities to apply for funding to provide chargers for their residents.</p> <p>We provided £40million of funding via our Go Ultra Low city scheme to 8 cities across the UK, to support uptake of ultra low emission vehicles in those cities. Over 3,500 chargepoints were installed as part of this scheme. Bristol, London, Milton Keynes and Nottingham have been delivering ambitious plans to become global exemplars of ultra low emission vehicle uptake. The scheme also provided £5million of development funding for specific initiatives in Dundee, Oxford, York and the North East region. The Government has committed £90 million at Spending Review to fund local electric vehicle charging infrastructure, in particular to support the roll out of larger, on-street charging schemes and rapid hubs in England.</p> <p>Later this year, the Government will publish an electric vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, which will explore the roles and responsibilities for central government and wider stakeholders involved in the deployment of charging infrastructure. As part of this, we will be engaging with local authorities, charge point operators and other stakeholders to ensure that future charging infrastructure is practical, accessible and deliverable. Here</p>

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
16/03/21	Written answers	HoL/DfT	<p>Aviation - UIN HL13836 Baroness Randerson: To ask Her Majesty's Government, what steps they are taking following the 2019 consultation on the future of aviation.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: The 2019 consultation on the Future of Aviation took place before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the</p>

			impact presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government is developing a new forward looking strategic framework which will focus on the recovery of the aviation sector. It will explore the return to growth of the aviation sector, which will include consideration of workforce and skills, regional connectivity, noise, innovation and regulation, and consumer issues. We will also consider climate change and decarbonisation. We aim to publish this framework later this year. Here
17/03/21	Debate	HoC	Union Connectivity Review – Vol 691 John Lamont, Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Con): I beg to move, That this House has considered the Union Connectivity Review. Sir Peter Hendy published the Union connectivity review interim report last week, and I want to start by congratulating him and his team on their work so far. What leaps out from the pages of that report is a genuine enthusiasm for transport connectivity and its enormous potential to strengthen our economic performance by improving the opportunities available to the people we all represent. More here

Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (eg TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
04/03/21	Written question	DfT	Transport for the North: Finance - UIN 160581 Dame Diana Johnson, Kingston upon Hull North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent representations he has received on changes in the level of funding for Transport for the North Andrew Stephenson, Pendle (Con): The Secretary of State has received correspondence on Transport for the North's (TfN) recent funding settlement from a range of individuals and organisations. Aside from representations made by TfN Board members themselves, this correspondence includes from MPs, councillors, Combined Authority Mayors and the TUC. This is in addition to ongoing dialogue between TfN and Departmental officials. Here
08/03/21	Written question	DfT	Transport for London: UIN 160751 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the value of Transport for London to the national economy.

			<p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): No specific assessment has been made. London 's economy represents 23% of UK GDP. Transport for London has continued to provide transport services over the last year, allowing key workers to get to their workplaces and other essential journeys to take place. It will play an important part in London's economic recovery. Here</p>
18/03/21	Debate	HoC	<p>Transport for the North: Funding – Vol 691 Dame Diana Johnson, Kingston upon Hull North (Lab): I thank Mr Speaker for granting this debate this evening. I sought it after the Prime Minister's response to me in the House at Prime Minister's Question Time on 24 February, when I asked him: "Is the 40% cut to Transport for the North 's budget part of the Prime Minister 's plans for levelling up the north?" He responded: "There has been no such cut, and we intend to invest massively in Northern Powerhouse Rail, and in railways in the north and across the entire country." [Official Report, 24 February 2021; Vol. 689, c. 911.]. That statement was simply incorrect, and I therefore welcome the opportunity this evening to set out the facts. More here</p>
18/03/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Transport for London Financial Review - UIN 168994 Sarah Olney, Richmond Park (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the cost to the public purse was of the KPMG report examining Transport for London 's finances that was commissioned in June 2020. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): Costs associated with the Government Led Review of Transport for London 's financial position totalled £1,216,107. This expenditure is critical to providing evidence to support Government's policy making, including the funding settlement with TfL from October 2020, worth up to £1.7 billion. This is part of the overall extraordinary government support of up to £3.3 billion for TfL to date. Here</p>
22/03/21	Written statement	DfT	<p>Local transport update: Transport for London funding deal extended until May 2021. Here</p>
30/03/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Transport for London: Finance - UIN 172979 Dr Matthew Offord, Hendon (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how long he plans to provide emergency funding to Transport for London.</p>

			<p><u>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con)</u>: The Government and Mayor of London have agreed to extend the current Transport for London funding deal, which was due to run out on 31st March 2021. The extended deal will continue to support the capital and the transport network until 18 May 2021, when a new funding deal will be put in place. The Government is committed to supporting London and the transport network on which it depends, and will commence discussions for a further funding deal as soon as the Mayoral Elections are concluded. <u>Here</u></p>