

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring August 2020

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

21 July – 8 September: Summer recess
Labour conference (online) 19-22 September
Lib Dem conference (online) 25-28 September
Conservative conference (online) 4-7 October
31 December: Brexit extension period ends

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/08/20	Press release	BEIS	£20 million to improve small business leadership and problem-solving skills in the wake of coronavirus here
04/08/20	Press release	MHCLG	£1.3 billion investment to deliver homes, infrastructure and jobs here
04/08/20	Press release	MHCLG	Getting Building Fund The government has agreed projects with mayors and local enterprise partnerships funded by the Getting Building Fund. Here

Energy projects – local authority

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
13/07/20	Written question	HoL - BEIS	Boilers: Waste Heat Recovery: Written question - HL7278 Lord Foster Of Bath : To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 23 July (HL6670), what estimate they have made of how much less carbon dioxide would be emitted if boilers in all large houses were fitted with stored passive flue gas heat recovery technology (1) when such houses are built, or (2) when boilers in such houses are replaced. [HL7278]

			<p>Lord Callanan: Passive Flue Gas Heat Recovery Systems (PFGHR) with thermal storage can deliver total annual gas savings for heating hot water of around 30% for a typical domestic building. This is equivalent to a boiler efficiency improvement of around 5% versus a system without. These savings can vary significantly depending on the volume of the thermal store, space heating demand, usage patterns and property type.</p> <p>Domestic hot water gas savings will typically be close to 20% for a new-build dwelling, and up to 35% for a larger existing property. here</p>

Environment – 25 year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
10/08/20	Press release	Defra	Recruitment campaign launches for inaugural Chair of new environment watchdog here
14/08/20	Press release	Defra	Five local authorities announced to trailblaze England's nature recovery pilots here
19/08/20	Press release	Defra	Legally binding targets to help "build back greener" here

Environment – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Environment – climate change & net zero

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
31/07/20	Press release	BEIS	Consultation outcome: Climate Change Agreements scheme extension and reforms for any future scheme here
03/08/20	Press release	CCC	New website to host independent research on UK climate risk. In July 2021, the Adaptation Committee of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), will launch a major new independent assessment of the climate risks and opportunities facing the UK. The full report can be accessed here . Press release: here
11/08/20	Press release	BEIS	Projects to heat homes through disused mines and faster offshore wind farm

			construction win government backing here
11/08/20	Report	NIC	Renewables, recovery, and reaching net zero here
11/08/20	Briefing paper	HoC library	Housing and net zero here
21/08/20	Press release	Defra	Third Woodland Carbon Guarantee auction now open for applications here
26/08/20	Speech	DWP	DWP: Speech by Work and Pensions Secretary, Thérèse Coffey , on Taking action on climate risk: Improving governance and reporting by occupational pension schemes (26 August 2020) here

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
04/08/20	HOC Library briefing paper	HOC Library	Reviewing and reforming local government finance: here
27/08/20	Press release	BEIS	Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs): assessment of capacity and capabilities here
27/08/20	Press release	BEIS	Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs): economic outlook 2019 here

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/07/20	Press release	MHCLG	Launch of Planning for the future consultation to reform the planning system here
06/07/20	Press release	MHCLG	Planning for the future explained here

Transport – automated & electric vehicles

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/08/20	Written question	HoL / DfT	<p>Transport: Schools: Written question - HL7237</p> <p>Baroness Randerson: To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional funding they intend to provide to bus and coach operators to ensure that COVID-19 (1) safety, and (2) additional capacity, requirements are in place when schools return in September; and when they plan to announce their funding decisions for such provision. [HL7237]</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: The return of pupils to education settings in September will be a considerable challenge for public transport capacity while maintaining social distancing. The Department is working with the Department for Education as a matter of urgency to explore options to increase capacity to ensure students can get to school or college in September.</p> <p>Solutions must be locally-led with authorities working closely with transport operators, and the Government will do what we can to support local authorities. The Government is therefore supporting local authorities with travel demand management, and we will continue to provide financial support for bus services in September in order to boost the amount of local transport capacity available. Here</p>
06/08/20	Briefing paper	HoC Library	Road pricing here
21/08/20	Press release	DfT	Transport Secretary launches new Acceleration Unit to speed up transport infrastructure projects and build back better from COVID-19 here
28/08/20	Press release	DfT	Government accelerating pothole mapping project to support motorists and cyclists ahead of school return here

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

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
18/08/20	Press release	TfL	TfL urges children to walk, cycle and scoot to school to help children safely return to the classroom here

Brexit – BEIS, Defra, MHCLG, & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates