

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring February 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

13 February: Recess
 22 February – Covid roadmap announcement
 24 February: House returns
 03 March: Budget
 25 March: Easter recess
 21 April: House returns

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/02/21	Press release	WYCA	Landmark West Yorkshire Devolution Deal Becomes Law. Here
02/02/21	Letter	MHCLG	Correspondence from Regional Growth and Local Government Minister Luke Hall to Chair of the HCLG Committee Clive Betts on English Devolution (22 January 2021). Here
23/02/21	Ministerial statement	MHCLG	MHCLG: Local government update - Statement UIN HCWS785 Written ministerial statement by Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government As I told the House on 12 October 2020, I have issued invitations under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) to principal councils in Cumbria, North Yorkshire, and Somerset, including associated existing unitary councils, to submit proposals for moving to unitary local government in those areas. More here
23/02/21	Press release	MHCLG	Proposals for unitary local government in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset. Here

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
18/02/21	Press release	BEIS	£8 million government boost for manufacturers across England to go digital. Here
23/02/21	Written answers	HM Treasury	Broadband: Non-domestic Rates - UIN HL13211 Lord Taylor Of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they

			<p>have to exempt fibre lines from business rates.</p> <p>Lord Agnew Of Oulton: The Government recognises that internet connectivity is a critical part of modern life and essential to allow businesses to compete and grow in the new digital economy. As announced at Autumn Statement 2016, the Government is providing 100 per cent business rates relief for new full-fibre infrastructure for a five-year period from 1 April 2017. The fundamental review of business rates will consider all parts of the business rates system, including reliefs and exemptions. Here</p>

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/02/21	Press release	BEIS	Business Secretary sets out new subsidies system that works for the UK. Here
05/02/21	Written questions	DCMS	<p>Community Development and Voluntary Organisations: Coronavirus - UIN 145061</p> <p>Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on allocating additional funding for voluntary and community organisations during the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Mr John Whittingdale, Maldon (Con): The £750 million sector funding package offered unprecedented support to allow charities and social enterprises to continue their vital work and adapt their service delivery to support our national response to the pandemic. On top of this, the Government continues to make an unprecedented package of support available across the economy to enable organisations to get through the months ahead. Charities continue to access these schemes, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the scheme to defer VAT bills to the end of June, and the business rate holiday for shops as well as government backed loan schemes. We will continue to work with the sector to assess their emerging needs and understand how we can best support them during the current period. Here</p>
09/02/21	Report	Prime Minister's office	The Prime Minister's Office has published the terms of reference for the Build Back Better Business Council. Here

17/02/21	Press release	Environmental Audit SC	EAC calls for climate and nature investment to be prioritised in the economic recovery. Here
18/02/21	Press release	PwC	The Chancellor's Spring Budget - PwC briefing and predictions. Here
18/02/21	Speech	Labour Party	Keir Starmer speech on A New Chapter for Britain. Here
22/02/21	Press release	PM's Office	G7 Leaders' Statement: 19 February 2021. Here
23/02/21	Oral answers	MHCLG	High Streets UIN 912370, UIN 912370, UIN 912374, UIN 912383 Mrs Flick Drummond, Meon Valley (Con); Laura Trott, Sevenoaks (Con); Ben Bradley, Mansfield (Con); Tom Hunt, Ipswich (Con); What steps he is taking to support high streets. Robert Jenrick (The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government); Government's response to the pandemic has seen billions of pounds of support flowing to our high streets through business grants, the furlough scheme and tax deferrals. We look to the future with renewed optimism through the progress of our world-beating vaccination programme, but we know the pandemic has magnified and accelerated market forces and will have a lasting impact on the high street. The role of high streets has always evolved. I am confident that it will do so again, provided there is the right leadership from local councils to make that happen. We are supporting councils and the pace of change through planning and licensing reform, preserving what is best about the high street at the heart of our local communities but enabling it to move forward with renewed confidence. More here
23/02/21	Debate	HoC	Coronavirus: Supporting Businesses and Individuals - Vol 689 Bridget Phillipson, Houghton and Sunderland South, (Lab); I beg to move, That this House calls on the Government to support businesses and individuals still struggling as a result of the coronavirus crisis in the forthcoming budget by extending business rates relief for at least another six months, extending the temporary 5 per cent reduced rate of VAT for three months after restrictions are lifted or for another six months... More here
24/02/21	Press release	Labour Party	Labour unveil plan to secure the future of Britain's high streets post-COVID. Here

Energy projects – local authority

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Environment – 25 year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
17/02/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Environment Bill - UIN HL12960 Baroness Hayman Of Ullock: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the announcement of delays to the consideration of the Environment Bill, what assessment they have made of the impact on the proposed deadline of 31 October 2022 in that Bill for establishing long-term environmental targets; and what steps they are taking, if any, to ensure that such deadlines are met if the Bill has not been given Royal Assent by 31 October 2022.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: The Environment Bill requires that Statutory Instruments setting out the targets must be brought forwards by 31 October 2022 and will come into force once approved by Parliament. Work is continuing to meet this deadline. We will continue to develop targets through the robust, evidence-led process set out in our policy paper, published in August 2020. This timetable is unaffected by the pause to the Bill. This process seeks independent expert advice, provides a role for stakeholders and the public, as well as scrutiny from Parliament. We are working towards a public consultation that will include proposed targets and an assessment of their impacts in early 2022. Here</p>
17/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Sewage: Seas and Oceans - UIN 151826 Stephen Morgan, Portsmouth South (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 2 February to Question 141594 on Sewage, what assessment has he made of the implications of going beyond providing more and better information to reduce frequency and harm of discharges from storm overflows, particularly to offshore public water bodies; and what plans are in place to reduce those discharges.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): I met water company CEOs last year and made clear that the volume of sewage discharged into rivers and other waterways</p>

			<p>in extreme weather must be reduced. To achieve this, our new Storm Overflows Taskforce has been established, bringing together representatives from the Government, the water industry, regulators and environmental Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to set out clear proposals to address the harm and frequency of sewage discharged into our rivers and other waterways from storm overflows. As announced on 22 January, this Taskforce has agreed a long-term goal to eliminate harm from storm overflows.</p> <p>This Taskforce has commissioned a research project to gather a comprehensive evidence base about the costs, benefits and feasibility of different options. This research project is due to be completed in the spring. We are also taking key steps through the Environment Bill by requiring sewerage undertakers to produce Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans on a statutory basis. Plans will fully assess network capacity, and set out the measures undertakers plan to take to develop their drainage and sewerage systems. The plans aim to deliver more actions to help sewerage companies better address the risks that some sewerage assets, such as storm overflows, may pose to the environment. Undertakers started developing plans on a non-statutory basis in 2018.</p> <p>We have introduced the requirement for at least one legally binding, water target in the Environment Bill. This target will complement existing regulations and legislation, moving us closer to achieving our goal of clean and plentiful water set out in Defra's 25 Year Environmental Plan. Here</p>
17/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Land Drainage: Storms - UIN 151827 & Sewage: Coastal areas - UIN 151828 Stephen Morgan, Portsmouth South (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with (a) industry representatives and (b) stakeholders on reducing the frequency and harm of discharges from storm overflows, particularly into offshore public water bodies. To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what</p>

			<p>assessment he has made of the potential effectiveness of the Environment Bill in protecting offshore public water bodies from Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs) and Sanitary Sewage Overflows (SSOs) which are linked to inland rivers and water bodies.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> I met water company CEOs last year and made clear that the volume of sewage discharged into rivers and other waterways in extreme weather must be reduced. To achieve this, our new Storm Overflows Taskforce has been established, bringing together representatives from the Government, the water industry, regulators and environmental Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to set out clear proposals to address the harm and frequency of sewage discharged into our rivers and other waterways from storm overflows. As announced on 22 January, this Taskforce has agreed a long-term goal to eliminate harm from storm overflows.</p> <p>This Taskforce has commissioned a research project to gather a comprehensive evidence base about the costs, benefits and feasibility of different options. This research project is due to be completed in the spring. We are also taking key steps through the Environment Bill by requiring sewerage undertakers to produce Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans on a statutory basis. Plans will fully assess network capacity, and set out the measures undertakers plan to take to develop their drainage and sewerage systems. The plans aim to deliver more actions to help sewerage companies better address the risks that some sewerage assets, such as storm overflows, may pose to the environment. Undertakers started developing plans on a non-statutory basis in 2018. We have introduced the requirement for at least one legally binding, water target in the Environment Bill. This target will complement existing regulations and legislation, moving us closer to achieving our goal of clean and plentiful water set out in Defra's 25 Year Environmental Plan. Here</p>

Environment – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/02/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Delivery Services: Exhaust Emissions - UIN 142775 / 142774</p> <p><u>Mr Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield (Lab):</u> To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to ensure that delivery organisations pay more tax in response to the effect of their fleets on roadside air pollution AND To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to increase taxes on retailers in response to the pollution levels caused by their vehicle fleets.</p> <p><u>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con):</u> The Government uses the tax system to encourage the uptake of vehicles with low carbon dioxide emissions. This is why electric vans are liable to pay no Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), and why the Government announced at Budget 2020 that it will apply a nil rate of tax for zero-emission vans within van benefit charge from April 2021. Motorists also pay fuel duty on the petrol or diesel they purchase so those who complete significant mileage will pay more in fuel duty than those who drive fewer miles. Air pollution has reduced significantly since 2010, thanks to the Government's £3.8 billion plan to clean up vehicle emissions and its world-leading Clean Air Strategy. The Environment Bill, currently being considered by the House of Commons, will deliver cleaner air for all by requiring the Government to set targets on air quality, including for fine particulate matter. The Government has also committed £880 million to support Local Authorities deliver their Air Quality plans. Here</p>
03/02/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Hydrogen: Diesel Vehicles - UIN 144958</p> <p><u>Andrew Rosindell, Romford (Con):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he and his officials have had with stakeholders on encouraging the development and use of hydrogen-injected diesel fuel engines using internal combustion assistance to make engines more efficient and limit air pollution.</p> <p><u>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con):</u> The Government has regular engagement with industry on the development of zero emission technologies which can assist our ambitions for zero emission road transport. The Government has adopted a</p>

			technology neutral approach and welcomes any innovative technology that can play a role in this. But we are not outcome neutral, the end goal must be zero emissions from the tailpipe. The technologies on sale, and the market share of those technologies, must be compatible with achieving our 2050 net zero climate change target and long-term air quality goals. Here
03/02/21	Debate	HoC	Air Quality. Theresa Villiers, Chipping Barnet (Con): I beg to move, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make provision for improving air quality. More Here
11/02/21	Press release	EFRA SC	Improving air quality should be 'at core' of post-pandemic rebuild. Here
17/02/21	Written question	Defra	Air Pollution - UIN 151795 Wera Hobhouse, Bath (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what new powers he plans to afford to local authorities under changes to the local air quality management framework in the Environment Bill. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Local authorities already have a number of powers available to them to tackle air pollution – for example powers to tackle idling and smoke emissions from domestic chimneys. The Environment Bill will improve the local air quality management framework to enable greater local action on air pollution by ensuring that responsibility for addressing air pollution is shared across a wider range of partners. We are amending the Local Air Quality Management Framework so that it brings in neighbouring authorities and where relevant, the Environment Agency, and can be extended to include additional relevant public authorities. Through the Environment Bill we are also making it easier for local authorities to use their existing powers to tackle a major contributor to fine particulate matter emissions – domestic solid fuel burning, and are expanding the scope of the power for local authorities to enable them to tackle smoke emissions from vessels within a smoke control area. Here
24/02/21	Written answers	Defra	Air Pollution - UIN 912528 Stephen Morgan, Portsmouth South (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what

			<p>steps the Government has taken to prioritise improving air quality in preparation for COP26.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Air quality has improved significantly since 2010. We are committed to leaving the environment in a better state for the next generation.</p> <p>Our Clean Air Strategy sets out an ambitious programme of action to reduce air pollutant emissions from a wide range of sources. The World Health Organization has recognised the Strategy as an example for the rest of the world to follow.</p> <p>The Environment Bill delivers a number of key elements of the strategy including establishing a duty to set a target on PM2.5 alongside a further long-term target on air quality as part of the wider framework for setting legally binding environmental targets. As set out in a policy paper published in August 2020, we're also specifically looking at average population exposure to PM2.5 across England and setting an additional long-term target on this. The Report Stage is set to recommence early in the Second Session and Royal Assent expected in Autumn.</p> <p>We have put in place a £3.8 billion plan to improve air quality and deliver cleaner transport. We have also introduced our statutory instrument containing regulations to phase out the sale of the most polluting solid fuels (wet wood, bituminous (house) coal and high sulphur manufactured solid fuels) used in domestic combustion. This area is critical as domestic burning is a major source of our national emissions of PM2.5.</p> <p>Climate change and air pollution are closely coupled because the sources of air pollutants are also often the sources of climate change agents. the UK recognises the potential for carbon emission reduction policies to improve air quality but also the risk that some approaches can increase human exposure to air pollution. The UK supports decarbonisation approaches that strive to improve air quality and minimise adverse impacts on human health, balanced with action to achieve reductions in carbon emissions. Here</p>

Environment – climate change & net zero

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/02/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy - UIN 142021 <u>Alan Brown, Kilmarnock and Loudoun (SNP)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will publish the modelling his Department holds on the comparative cost effectiveness, including grid balancing costs, of new large scale nuclear and renewable energy.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: The Department publishes information on one useful measure of cost effectiveness for generation technologies in its Electricity Generation Costs series. The latest report (2020) sets out the Levelised Cost Of Electricity (LCOE) for renewables, which can be compared against the LCOE for a generic large-scale nuclear plant published in the 2016 report. The true cost of any future nuclear plant would, however, be dependent on the outcome of negotiations with project developers. It is important to note that other factors also influence the cost effectiveness of different generation technologies. For example, energy generated at times of high demand and low capacity is more valuable than energy generated at times of low demand and high capacity, and the location of specific generating capacity will further affect costs. The effect of grid balancing on levelised costs is explored more in Section 7 of the 2020 Generation Costs Report. Here</p>
02/02/21	Press release	HM Treasury	<p>Nature is a blind spot in economics that we ignore at our peril, says Dasgupta Review. Here</p>
02/02/21	Speech	Cabinet Office	<p>Speech by COP26 President, Alok Sharma, at the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue (2 February 2021). Here</p>
03/02/21	Press release	PASC	<p>Time is running out: Government must “move on from aspirational words” and start “taking the hard decisions”. Here</p>
03/02/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN HL12282 <u>Lord Foster Of Bath</u>: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Climate Change Committee Sixth Carbon Budget, published on 9 December 2020, what estimate they have made of the potential amount of greenhouse gas emissions which could be reduced by spending up to two per cent of GDP.</p>

			<p>Lord Callanan: The Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) latest estimate puts the incremental costs of action to deliver net zero emissions by 2050 at below 1% of UK GDP throughout the next 30 years. The Government is considering the CCC's advice on Carbon Budget 6, and our Impact Assessment on setting the level of Carbon Budget 6 will set out more detail on the costs and benefits associated with reducing emissions.</p> <p>HM Treasury is conducting a review on how to achieve the net zero transition in a way that works for households, businesses and public finances, as well as ensuring that this is compatible with our plans for a thriving and competitive economy. Their interim report, published on 17 December 2020, set out the overall approach to the Review and analysis which will inform the final report due this Spring. Here</p>
03/02/21	Written answers	HoL/DfT	<p>Aviation: Climate Change - UIN HL12533</p> <p>Lord Oates: To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have carried out into the trade-off between additional CO2 emissions generated by rerouting aircraft for contrail prevention and the climate mitigation benefits of condensation trail prevention.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: Alongside "Aviation 2050 – The Future of UK Aviation: A Consultation", the Government published a short paper commissioned from Professor David Lee of Manchester Metropolitan University entitled "The current state of scientific understanding of the non-CO2 effects of aviation on climate". This paper makes clear that contrail avoidance through rerouting would require accurate meteorological prediction of potential contrail-forming areas and an agreed metric by which to ascertain that the flight's total climate impact was being reduced. Neither of these are available today but the Government continues to follow developments closely.</p> <p>The Government has not commissioned any further analysis into the climate trade-offs associated with rerouting aircraft for contrail prevention, though we continue to keep the issue under close review and in this vein, I refer the Noble Lord to the answer I gave on 22 December 2020 to Question UIN HL11424. Here</p>

03/02/21	Written answers	HoL/DfT	<p>Aviation: Climate Change - UIN HL12531 Lord Oates: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the International Civil Aviation Organisation about the inclusion of indirect non-CO2 climate impacts of aviation, such as climate forcing caused by condensation trails, in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: Currently, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) only applies to CO2 emissions. Due to the uncertainties surrounding aviation's non-CO2 climate impacts, ICAO does not include these in its climate policies. The UK continues to negotiate in ICAO for increased environmental ambition and supports continued work on aviation's non-CO2 climate impacts and possible mitigation measures, taking into account their trade-offs with CO2. As a UN specialised agency, ICAO's policies are the result of extensive technical work and negotiation between its Contracting States. Here</p>
04/02/21	Press release	BEIS	<p>£11 million boost for energy entrepreneurs to turn green dreams into reality. Here</p>
04/02/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Roads: Fees and Charges - UIN 146984 Sarah Olney, Richmond Park (LD): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he had had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential merits of introducing road pricing for inter-urban journeys.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): The Government is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the transition towards electric vehicles and the phase out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans will make a vital contribution to this. As we move forward with this transition, we will need to ensure that revenue from motoring taxes keeps pace with this change, so that we can continue to fund the first-class public services and infrastructure that people and families across the UK expect. The Government has not set out that it will introduce road pricing. Any changes to the tax system will be considered by the Chancellor and any further steps will be announced in due course. Here</p>
04/02/21	Oral answers	HoL	<p>Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review – Vol 809</p>

			<p><u>Baroness Boycott:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review, published on 2 February.</p> <p><u>Baroness Penn:</u> My Lords, at the start of an important year for global action to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, the Government thank Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta for his independent review and welcome its publication. The review is 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 and respond formally in due course. <u>More here</u></p>
05/02/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p><u>Carbon Emissions - UIN 145145</u></p> <p><u>Luke Pollard, Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when the net zero strategy will be published; and whether it will include the emissions reductions required to meet the UK's 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution of reducing emissions by 68 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con):</u> The Government will publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy this year, ahead of COP26. The strategy will set out our vision for transitioning to a net zero economy so we can make the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK. We have a robust legislative framework in place to ensure that the government is meeting its climate targets. The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced our innovative framework of carbon budgets to ensure continued progress towards our climate targets. The carbon budgets currently set in legislation cover the period between 2008 to 2032 and are among the most stringent in the world, requiring the equivalent of a 57% cut in emissions by 2030 from a 1990 baseline. We will set the sixth carbon budget this year and will set out our plans on continuing to meet our climate targets.</p> <p>Through my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan and our Energy White Paper, we have set out concrete steps we will take to build back greener from the pandemic and reach net zero emissions by 2050. Over the coming</p>

			months, in addition to the Net Zero Strategy, we will bring forward further bold proposals to cut emissions and create new jobs and industries across the whole country. Here
05/02/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p>Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme - UIN 147098</p> <p>Dr Kieran Mullan, Crewe and Nantwich (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans his Department has to replace the non-domestic renewal heat incentive scheme; and when he will publish those plans.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): From April to July 2020, the Department consulted on "Future support for low carbon heat", setting out proposals for future schemes to follow the closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive. A government response to this consultation will be published later this year. The Government is also planning to publish a Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course, which will set out the immediate actions we will take to reduce emissions from buildings. Here</p>
05/02/21	Press release	Efra SC	Lack of clear flood-resilience targets leaves England at risk of 'playing catch-up' with climate change. Here
07/02/21	Press release	BEIS	£40 million government funding to help polluting businesses clean up. Here
09/02/21	Press release	IME	Large-scale electrification needed to replace diesel trains and decarbonise network. Here
09/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Seas and Oceans: Carbon Capture and Storage - UIN 147049</p> <p>Luke Pollard, Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a blue carbon strategy for the UK.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government recognises the important role that blue carbon habitats, such as saltmarsh and seagrass meadows, can play to prevent biodiversity loss and support adaptation and resilience to climate change, alongside carbon sequestration benefits. Some uncertainty remains in quantifying the magnitude and direction of change in blue carbon stores and fluxes for all marine habitats, and we</p>

			<p>therefore continue to gather evidence to improve assessments.</p> <p>Marine nature-based solutions, including the protection and restoration of blue carbon habitats, are central to a range of Defra policy areas and will contribute towards achieving the Government's vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas'. The existing UK Marine Strategy is vital in achieving this vision and provides the framework for assessing and taking measures to achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status in our seas.</p> <p>We already have 38% of UK waters in Marine Protected Areas, covering the majority of saltmarsh and seagrass habitat, and our focus is now on ensuring these are effectively protected. We have stated our intention to pilot Highly Protected Marine Areas in Secretary of State waters and we look forward to publishing the Government's response to Richard Benyon's review in due course, including how HPMA's can enhance the protection of blue carbon habitats. A number of coastal habitat restoration initiatives are also underway, including the Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe) initiative which was initiated by the Defra group to restore our estuarine and coastal habitats to benefit people and nature. Here</p>
10/02/21	Oral answers	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy - UIN 912057, 912059, 912066 Vol 689 Alex Cunningham, Stockton North (Lab) Mark Logan, Bolton North East (Con) Simon Baynes, Clwyd South (Con): What steps his Department is taking to support the renewable energy sector. Anne-Marie Trevelyan (The Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth): The UK is a major global market for renewables, and we have world-leading ambitions for deployment. We aim to deliver up to double the renewable capacity at the next contracts for difference round at the end of this year, compared with the last round. We are spending £160 million to support new port and manufacturing infrastructure needed to achieve our 40 GW offshore wind ambition, which will secure local jobs and benefits. More Here</p>

10/02/21	Press release	Defra	New £10 million fund to drive private sector investment in nature. Here
10/02/21	Debate	HoC	Climate and Ecological Emergency: UK's Response - Vol 689 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): It has been almost two years since this House declared a climate and nature emergency, and more than one year since Parliament last debated the climate and nature crises as an interlinked issue, yet the need for not only debate and declarations but ambitious action could not be more urgent. More Here
10/02/21	Written question	BEIS	Climate Change - UIN 147938 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent discussions he has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and (b) local authority leaders on support for councils' programmes for tackling climate change and improving climate resilience. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State 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. The Secretary of State also meets with Local Authorities and local Members of Parliament regularly to discuss a range of issues including their net zero ambitions as do members of his wider ministerial team. Here
10/02/21	Written question	BEIS	Carbon Emissions - UIN 147811 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the CCC's assessment that the UK's fifth carbon budget is not aligned with its recommendation for (a) the sixth carbon budget or (b) the UK's NDC submitted to the UNFCCC process, what plans his Department has to bring forward legislation to align the fifth carbon budget with emissions reductions necessary to achieve (i) net zero by 2050 and (ii) the UK's 2030 NDC. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Government will consider carefully the Climate Change Committee's advice in their report "The Sixth Carbon

			<p>Budget: The UK's path to Net Zero". Through the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan and our Energy White Paper, we have set out concrete steps we will take to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Over the coming months, we will bring forward further bold proposals, including a Net Zero Strategy, to continue to reduce our emissions in line with our climate obligations. These will be critical steps towards ensuring the UK meets its 5th Carbon Budget. Here</p>
11/02/21	Press release	DfT	<p>Safer, greener travel: government investment in transport tech to accelerate the road to a green recovery. Here</p>
11/02/21	Written questions	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy: Urban Areas - UIN 147939 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to support projects which produce renewable energy in densely populated urban centres. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): I refer the Hon. Member to the answer given by my Rt. Hon. Friend the then Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth on 15 December 2020 to Question 128213. The public consultation on the proposed Green Heat Network Fund closed on 29 January 2021. We are currently analysing these responses and will update the House shortly. Here</p>
11/02/21	Written question	HoL/Defra	<p>Forests - UIN HL12739 Baroness Redfern: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to set a target for the creation of new native woodland; and what steps they are taking (1) to avoid reliance on imported trees, and (2) to manage and increase native woodland while ensuring that such woodland remains in good ecological condition. Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: We are committed to increasing woodland establishment across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025. To achieve this, we announced a £640m Nature for Climate Fund which will encourage woodland creation of all kinds to achieve this. To decrease reliance on imported saplings we are boosting domestic tree nursery capacity, including through a joint £2m investment alongside the Scottish and Welsh governments. We will also set out</p>

			<p>further plans to support domestic nurseries in due course. To improve biodiversity and resilience, we will increase woodland management. This ensures diversity of trees' ages and species, maximising resilience to climate change, pests and diseases. Here</p>
12/02/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Carbon Emissions: Nature Conservation - UIN 149193 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of 26 January 2021, Official report, column 261, what assessment his Department has made of the alignment of the Government's (a) economic objectives and (b) decision-making processes with the UK's commitments on (i) net zero and (ii) improving the natural environment within a generation.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): To ensure Government policy considers Net Zero and environmental targets, Green Book guidance on appraisal and evaluation mandates us to consider the climate and environmental impacts of all our spending. The Green Book guidance provides detailed advice for valuing the costs and benefits of interventions in terms of climate change mitigation and other environmental impacts. The Government also remains committed to pursuing a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, to help improve the natural environment, the £80m Green Recovery Challenge Fund will provide funding for projects across England to restore nature while creating and safeguarding jobs. Here</p>
15/02/21	Press release	BEIS	<p>Leeds and London set to become global centres of green finance. Here</p>
16/02/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Business: Carbon Emissions - UIN 150856 Kevin Hollinrake, Thirsk and Malton (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which businesses are on track to meet the Government's 2050 net zero target. []</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): This year, the eyes of the world will be on the UK as we host the G7 and COP26. Business action on climate is vitally important to achieving a successful summit and presidency and meeting net zero emissions by 2050. Together these</p>

			<p>provide an excellent opportunity to showcase businesses as global leaders in tackling climate change in the year leading up to COP26.</p> <p>The Government has appointed my Hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Andrew Griffith) as the UK Net Zero Business Champion for COP26. Andrew will drive the action needed to encourage UK businesses to sign up to the Race to Zero. This sends the strongest signal to markets, supply chains, governments and consumers that businesses are committed to the Net Zero transition. We have met our emissions reductions targets to date, and to monitor emissions across all sectors of the economy, BEIS publishes an annual assessment of projected emissions, including those from business and industry, as part of the department's Energy and Emissions Projections https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-and-emissions-projections. Here</p>
16/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Biodiversity - UIN 150981 <u>Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies on improving the natural environment of the findings of the Final Report, The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review, published by HMT on 2 February 2021. <u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> The Government thanks Professor Dasgupta for his independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity, and its considerable contribution to the important issue of global biodiversity loss. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets, and the biodiversity that underpins them, is crucial to achieving a sustainable, resilient economy. The Government will draw on the strong intellectual basis provided by the Review to drive the ambitious change and investment needed to protect and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>The UK Government has recently taken numerous actions to address biodiversity loss including: announcing support for a global target to protect 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030; committing to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030; committing to invest at least £3 billion over</p>

			<p>five years in climate change solutions that protect and restore nature and biodiversity; launching the £640 million Nature for Climate Fund to plant more than 40 million trees and restore 35,000 hectares of peatland in England ; legislating to prevent illegal deforestation in the supply chains of large UK companies; pioneering the Leaders Pledge for Nature, which has now been signed by 82 countries; and strengthening Government guidelines for policy appraisal to ensure environmental impacts are taken into account. The Government will examine the Review's findings closely and respond formally in due course on the ways in which the government intends to draw and build on the Review, both domestically and internationally. Here</p>
16/02/21	Speech	Cabinet office	<p>Speech by COP26 President, Alok Sharma, at the Valedictory session of the World Sustainable Development Summit. Here</p>
17/02/21	Written question	HoL/BEIS	<p>Fossil Fuels - UIN HL12967 Lord Jones Of Cheltenham: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to set a target for eliminating the use of fossil fuels by the UK; and if not, why not. Lord Callanan: The Government is committed to acting on climate change by reducing our emissions to net zero by 2050. As part of this we must move away from fossil fuels and towards cleaner energy sources. This is why we are one of the first countries to commit to ending unabated coal generation, which we intend to do by 2024, subject to consultation. Closing our remaining coal plants by this date would mean that in 10 years we have reduced our reliance on unabated coal generation from almost a third of our electricity supply to zero.</p> <p>Our Energy White Paper, published last December set out plans for the transformation of our energy system as we move towards fully decarbonised electricity generation by 2050, including working with the oil and gas sector to transform the UK Continental Shelf to be a net zero basin by 2050. As these fossil fuels play a smaller role in our energy mix over time, the government will agree a North Sea Transition Deal to deliver new business opportunities, jobs and skills and protect the wider communities which rely on the sector. My Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister's</p>

			Ten Point Plan further demonstrates the government's commitment to investing in clean technologies as we move away from fossil fuels. Ahead of COP26, we will set out further plans for decarbonising key sectors across the economy, culminating in a Net Zero Strategy which sets out our vision for the transition to 2050. Here
17/02/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy - UIN 151765</p> <p>Alan Brown, Kilmarnock and Loudoun (SNP): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of Ofgem's proposed reforms to network charging on renewable energy development (a) in Scotland and (b) across the UK.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): Network charging is a matter for Ofgem as the independent regulator. Ofgem is leading two major charging reforms: the Targeted Charging Review (TCR), where final decisions were announced in December 2019; and the Access and Forward Looking Charges Significant Code Review (Access SCR), which is ongoing. Collectively, this programme of work seeks to ensure that regulatory and market arrangements reflect and enable the energy system transition, as we move towards net zero emissions, and that consumers benefit from the changes.</p> <p>Ofgem's TCR reforms seek to ensure all parties connected to the electricity network make a fair contribution to its fixed costs, and it has published an analysis of the expected impacts at: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/electricity/transition-networks/charging/targeted-charging-review-significant-code-review.</p> <p>This analysis indicates that the reforms could affect the investment decisions of some renewable energy projects across Scotland and GB more widely, but also suggests that overall the combined impact of the TCR changes will reduce carbon emissions compared with no reforms.</p> <p>Ofgem's Access SCR is seeking to ensure the electricity network is used efficiently and flexibly, allowing consumers to benefit from new technologies and services. Ofgem is currently developing proposals, and intends to consult on these later this year. It will publish an impact assessment alongside that consultation. Here</p>

17/02/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Fossil Fuels - UIN HL12966</p> <p><u>Lord Jones Of Cheltenham:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that ceasing to use fossil fuels would have on (1) controlling climate change, and (2) preventing the extinction of species.</p> <p><u>Lord Callanan:</u> Ceasing emissions from the use of fossil fuels would substantially reduce future warming, however continued emissions from other sectors, including agriculture, cement and waste, would still result in rising temperatures, albeit at a slower rate of warming. If we reach net zero carbon dioxide emissions across all sectors, and stabilise or reduce emissions of short lived greenhouse gases such as methane, then at that point, our best current understanding is that warming would cease. There is a strong scientific consensus that climate change is impacting on biodiversity, including contributing to species extinction, and that tackling global warming would have significant benefits for the natural world. Those impacts are predicted to grow substantially without action to limit future warming. Here</p>
19/02/21	Press release	BEIS	UK to launch new research agency to support high risk, high reward science. Here
22/02/21	EDM	HoC	That this House believes the Green Homes Grant to upgrade 600,000 homes and support 100,000 jobs is in need of fundamental reform; More here
23/02/21	Press release	EA	Climate emergency impacts hitting "worst case scenario" levels. Here
23/02/21	Letter	BEIS	Correspondence from Sarah Munby, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, re Response to the Committee regarding January 28' Achieving Net Zero' Public Account Committee hearing / New licences in regard to the cutting of emissions in half by 2030, dated 10th February 2021. Here
23/02/21	Oral answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Trees – Vol 810</p> <p><u>Lord Clark Of Windermere:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to balance (1) carbon sequestration, and (2) biodiversity, in their plans to plant 30,000 hectares of trees annually.</p> <p><u>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park (The Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development</u></p>

			<p>Office): My Lords, trees are an essential part of our nation's biodiversity, and existing native woodlands are recognised as priority habitats. Tree planting is a nature-based solution that can expand habitats and help to address the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Through our £640 million nature for climate fund, we will ensure that trees are grown, selected, planted and managed appropriately to provide multiple benefits for the climate, nature, people and the economy in supporting a green recovery.</p> <p>More here</p>
23/02/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN HL13172</p> <p>Lord Foster Of Bath: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 2 February (HL12282), what year they estimate net zero could be achieved by spending one per cent of the UK's GDP.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: In June 2019, following advice from the Climate Change Committee (CCC), the UK Government became the first major economy to set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. When publishing their recommendation for the level of the Sixth Carbon Budget in December 2020, the CCC made clear that Net Zero in 2050 remains the right target for the UK.</p> <p>Ahead of COP26, we will set out ambitious plans across key sectors of the economy to meet our carbon budgets and net zero. We have already published the Energy White Paper and the first phase of our Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and will publish the Heat and Building Strategy in due course. We will also publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK. These will raise ambition as we outline our path to hit our 2050 target.</p> <p>We will build on the strong foundations we have established through our leading progress in decarbonising our economy; our ambitious manifesto commitments; and announcements from my Rt. Hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer of measures to cut emissions as</p>

			we build back better in our economic recovery from COVID-19. Here
23/02/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Carbon Emissions - UIN HL13199 Baroness Ritchie Of Downpatrick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to meet their net zero carbon emissions target by 2050.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: We have already made significant progress towards meeting our net zero target. We met our first and second carbon budgets that were established under the Climate Change Act 2008, and we are on track to meet the third.</p> <p>My Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan is the down-payment on meeting the fourth (2023-27) and fifth (2028-32) carbon budgets. Spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies, the plan will mobilise £12billion of government investment to unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030; level up regions across the UK; and support up to 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs. It will also support our efforts to build back greener from the coronavirus, generating jobs and bolstering the economy, whilst continuing to drive down emissions both now and in the future.</p> <p>Ahead of COP26, we will set out ambitious plans across key sectors of the economy to meet our carbon budgets and net zero. We have already published the Energy White Paper and the first phase of our Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and will publish further strategies, including on Heat and Buildings, in due course. We will also publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK. Here</p>
23/02/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Environment Protection: Coronavirus - UIN HL13200 Baroness Ritchie Of Downpatrick: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to their Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, published on 18 November, what plans they have to promote a 'green recovery' from the COVID-19 pandemic. []</p> <p>Lord Callanan: As we rebuild, we must build back better, greener, and faster. This</p>

			<p>means supporting green jobs, levelling up, accelerating our path to net zero, and creating long-term advantage for the UK. The UK has shown that growing our economy and cutting emissions can be achieved at the same time - growing our economy by 78% while cutting emissions by 43.8% over the past three decades. Spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies, the Ten Point Plan will mobilise £12billion of government investment to unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030. This will support our efforts to build back greener from the coronavirus, generating jobs and bolstering the economy, whilst continuing to drive down emissions both now and in the future.</p> <p>Ahead of COP26, we will set out ambitious plans across key sectors of the economy to meet our carbon budgets and net zero. We have already published the Energy White Paper and the first phase of our Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and will publish the Heat and Building Strategy in due course. We will also publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK. These will raise ambition as we outline our path to hit our 2050 target. Here</p>
24/02/21	Press release	NIC	Maintaining operability of highly renewable electricity system possible at little additional cost. Here
24/02/21	Report	NIC	Operability of highly renewable electricity systems. Report here
24/02/21	Press release	National Lottery community Fund	Climate Action Fund opens to applicants, across the UK, looking to address waste and sustainable consumption in their communities. Here
24/02/21	Written answers	HoL/MHCLG	<p>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Parliamentary Consultants - UIN HL13275</p> <p>Lord Krebs: To ask Her Majesty's Government who are the official advisors on (1) the natural environment, and (2) climate change, within the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh: Government is advised by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) – the independent, statutory body</p>

			<p>established under the Climate Change Act 2008 – whose role is to advise the UK and devolved Governments, including MHCLG. The Department also seeks the relevant advice from executive non-departmental bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. Here</p>
24/02/21	Written questions	Cabinet Office	<p>Climate Change COP26 - UIN 151841 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the President of COP26, what recent assessment he has made of progress towards (a) limiting global heating to well below 2°C and (b) limiting heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.</p> <p>Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con): We have seen significant momentum on climate ambition in recent months, with the likes of China, Japan and South Korea committing to net zero emissions and over 40 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) being submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to date. However, it is clear that more needs to be done to close the gap to the Paris Agreement temperature goals. As the incoming COP President, I will continue to press all parties to increase their climate commitments to the highest level of ambition possible. Here</p>
24/02/21	Written questions	Cabinet Office	<p>Financial Services: Climate Change COP26 - UIN 151780 Matthew Pennycook, Greenwich and Woolwich (Lab): To ask the President of COP26, what role (a) the Finance Adviser for COP26, Mark Carney, and (b) his Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets will play in ensuring that companies, asset managers and other financial institutions deliver emissions reductions in line with the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con): The Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets (TSVCM) is a private sector-led initiative and is independent of UK Government efforts as the hosts of COP26. As set out in his Terms of Reference, Mark Carney is focussed on creating a more sustainable financial system to support the path to net zero and embedding climate into every financial decision. His objectives are set out in his published 'Priorities for private finance for COP26'. The work of the TSVCM in supporting companies to contribute to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement is set out in the Taskforce's final report, available at iif.com/tsvcm.</p>

			Neither the Finance Advisor for COP26, Mark Carney, nor the Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets will play a role in the formation of Government policy in relation to COP26 negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Here
24/02/21	Oral answers	Cabinet Office	<p>Post Covid-19 Economic Recovery: Climate Action - UIN 912519, UIN 912527 & UIN 912530</p> <p>Mark Menzies, Fylde (Con); Mrs Flick Drummond, Meon Valley (Con); Imran Hussain, Bradford East (Lab): What steps the Government are taking to promote (a) climate action and (b) a green recovery from the covid-19 pandemic ahead of COP26.</p> <p>The President Of COP26, Alok Sharma: We are determined to build back better and greener as we recover from covid-19. The Prime Minister's 10-point plan for a green industrial revolution sets out the Government's blueprint to grow the sunrise sector, support 250,000 green jobs and level up across the country. Here</p>
24/02/21	Oral answers	Cabinet Office	<p>COP26: UK's Objectives - UIN 912520</p> <p>Nicola Richards, West Bromwich East (Con): What discussions he has had with (a) business owners and (b) other stakeholders on the UK's objectives for COP26.</p> <p>The President Of COP26, Alok Sharma: Businesses have a vital role to play in tackling climate change through the COP26 business leaders group and, indeed, through other engagements in the UK and internationally. I have spoken directly with many hundreds of global businesses, and of course we are calling on businesses, investors and other non-state actors to sign up to the Race to Zero campaign and commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. More here</p>
24/02/21	Oral answers	BEIS	<p>Paris Agreement Long-term Strategy - UIN 912525</p> <p>Sir Oliver Heald, North East Hertfordshire (Con): If the Government will (a) submit their Paris agreement long-term strategy in preparation for COP26 and (b) meet the UK nationally determined contribution by 2030.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan (The Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth): Ahead of COP26, the Government will publish a comprehensive net zero strategy, which will form the basis of our next long-term strategy. The UK's NDC commits to at</p>

			least 68% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, consistent with our legally binding commitment to net zero by 2050. More here
24/02/21	Oral answers	Cabinet Office	<p>Consultation with Civil Society and Youth Groups - UIN 912534</p> <p>Robert Largan, High Peak (Con): What steps he is taking to consult with (a) civil society and (b) youth groups in preparation for COP26.</p> <p>The President Of COP26, Alok Sharma: This is the first COP ever for which we have set up an international civil society and youth advisory council—indeed, the next meeting of the group is later today. It is co-chaired by two young climate activists, one from the global north and one from the global south. I have committed to meet civil society groups and youth groups in every country that I visit, because I really want their voices to be front and centre and at the heart of COP26. More here</p>
24/02/21	Oral answers	Cabinet Office	<p>Tackling Climate Change: Covid-19 - UIN 912536</p> <p>Cherilyn Mackrory, Truro and Falmouth (Con): What steps he has taken to maintain tackling climate change as a Government priority during the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The President Of COP26, Alok Sharma: Domestically, the Government have set out their 10-point plan, their energy White Paper and an ambitious nationally determined contribution. Over the past year, the Prime Minister and I, and other Ministers and officials, have regularly engaged with counterparts around the world to raise climate action ambition. More here</p>
25/02/21	Press release	NAO	Reducing carbon emissions from cars. Here
26/03/21	Press release	PAC	Next housing and building regulations scandal brewing in flood protection failures. Here

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
10/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Plastics: Pollution - UIN 147749</p> <p>Mr Andrew Mitchell, Sutton Coldfield (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans the Government has to reduce the amount of plastic pollution in public parks.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all</p>

			<p>avoidable plastic waste. We are making great strides to tackle plastic pollution. In December 2018 we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which sets out how we want to achieve this and move towards a circular economy. We know more needs to be done, and for the most problematic plastics we are going faster, which is why we have committed to work towards all plastic packaging on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.</p> <p>We have made significant progress, by introducing one of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products and have significantly reduced the use of single-use carrier bags by the main supermarket retailers by 95% with our 5p charge. We have announced our plans to increase the minimum charge to 10p and to extend the charge to all retailers later this year. In October 2020, we introduced measures to restrict the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. 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, including problematic packaging materials.</p> <p>As the hon. Member will be aware, it is an offence to drop litter (including in public parks), and councils have legal powers to take enforcement action against offenders. Anyone caught littering may be prosecuted in a magistrates' court, which can lead to a criminal record and a fine of up to £2,500 on conviction. Instead of prosecuting, councils may decide to issue a fixed penalty (on-the-spot fine) of between £65 and £150.</p> <p>With regards to improving enforcement, we are seeking powers in the Environment Bill to ensure that enforcement powers are used with a high degree of professionalism, whether by council staff or private contractors, and to place our improved enforcement guidance on a firm statutory footing, giving those to which it applies a clear and explicit duty</p>
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			<p>to have regard to it when exercising their enforcement functions.</p> <p>We also continue to campaign to raise awareness of littering issues in public spaces. Last summer, in response to Covid-19, Defra developed a 'Respect the Outdoors' campaign to encourage people to follow the Countryside Code and to highlight the impacts of littering. This was promoted both online and in locations across the country near to urban parks, beaches and national parks. We also supported, and provided funding for, Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign, which encouraged people to treat our parks with respect. Preliminary evaluation of these campaigns indicated that they had a positive influence on the target audience's intended disposal of PPE litter, with anecdotal reports from local authorities that the intervention resulted in a markedly beneficial outcome. Here</p>
17/02/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Nappies: Recycling - UIN 151858 Daisy Cooper, St Albans (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will introduce minimum environmental standards for reusable nappies.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In line with our Resources and Waste Strategy, we are seeking powers, through the Environment Bill that will enable us to, where appropriate and subject to consultation, to introduce ecodesign standards and consumer information requirements for products. We will decide on priority products taking on board relevant evidence. We have commissioned an updated Life Cycle Analysis of the impacts of disposable versus washable nappies to help inform any future policy interventions on nappies. Here</p>

Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/02/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Infrastructure: Finance - UIN 143760 Dan Jarvis, Barnsley Central (Lab): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will publish a list of the projects funded under the National Infrastructure Strategy; what the timescale is for the (a) disbursement and (b) implementation of each of those</p>

			<p>projects; and how much funding has not yet been allocated to specific infrastructure projects.</p> <p><u>Jesse Norman, Hereford and South Herefordshire (Con)</u>: The National Infrastructure Strategy set out the Government's plan to transform the UK's infrastructure to help level up the country and put the UK on the path to net zero emissions by 2050. The Strategy announced record levels of public investment in strategic roads, digital infrastructure and flood defences, alongside measures to encourage and increase private investment, such as the creation of a new infrastructure bank for the UK.</p> <p>The Strategy includes different kinds of funding commitments, from individual projects like HS2, to overarching programmes, such as £5bn for the rollout of gigabit capable broadband. A number of programmes will be administered by delivery agencies like the Environment Agency and Highways England who will allocate funding to individual projects. The Infrastructure and Projects Authority will publish the next iteration of its annual National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline in 2021, as stated in the NIS, and this will list future planned investments and procurements across infrastructure and construction. The National Infrastructure Strategy also included a timeline of forthcoming Government publications which indicated where future action can be expected. <u>Here</u></p>

Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/02/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p><u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund - UIN 144686 Seema Malhotra, Feltham and Heston (Lab)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what consultation the Minister for Employment has conducted on the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with (a) representatives of the employment support sector and (b) more widely.</p> <p><u>Luke Hall, Thornbury and Yate (Con)</u>: The Government has been engaging with key</p>

			<p>stakeholders on the design and priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund since 2016, including holding a series of engagement events. Over 500 stakeholders attended these events across a variety of sectors, including businesses, public bodies (such as Local Enterprise Partnerships, Mayoral Combined Authorities, local governments), higher education institutions, voluntary and charity sector and rural partnership groups. Our engagement events have taken place across the UK including in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. We will continue to work closely with interested parties as we develop the fund. Here</p>
03/02/21	Written Ministerial statement	HM Treasury	<p>HMT: Billing Authorities Update HM Treasury has published a written ministerial statement on Billing Authorities Update - Statement made by Jesse Norman, Financial Secretary to the Treasury</p> <p>Local Government is responsible for the administration of non-domestic rates in England. As part of this function, billing authorities will shortly begin preparing to issue annual rates bills to businesses. Nevertheless, as authorities will be aware, my right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will make the Budget Statement on 3 March 2021. The Budget will set out the next phase of the Government's plans to tackle the virus, protect jobs and support business. Billing authorities in England should therefore consider issuing business rates bills after the Chancellor has set out his plan at the Budget.</p> <p>The Government recognises the crucial work local authorities continue to do to support the pandemic response; by their taking this action, it believes it is in the public interest to avoid any potential confusion for businesses and to avoid the cost of having to re-bill businesses in light of any measures that may be included in the Budget. Here</p>
04/02/21	Press release	MHCLG	<p>The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published guidance on 1/2021: business rates - business rate reliefs 2021 to 2022. Here</p>
04/02/21	Debate	HoC	<p>Towns Fund – Vol 688</p>

			Paul Bristow, Peterborough (Con): I beg to move, That this House has considered the Towns Fund. More here
04/02/21	Statement	MHCLG	The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published a written ministerial statement on Local Government Finance. Here
07/02/21	Press release	DCN	District Councils' Network responds to local government finance settlement. Here
08/02/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Towns Fund - UIN 147866</p> <p>Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding from the Towns Fund has been paid to each of the qualifying towns for that fund.</p> <p>Luke Hall, Thornbury and Yate (Con): So far, each of the 101 towns has received capacity funding of £140,000, £162,019 or £173,029 depending on population size. In September 2020, each town also received a capital grant of £500,000, £750,000 or £1 million as part of £81.5 million accelerated funding to help towns respond to the immediate challenges of Covid-19.</p> <p>In October 2020, we announced offers of Town Deals to the first seven towns. The first payments will be made once full business cases have been agreed for projects within those deals, and paid annually thereafter. This includes projects put forward to be fast-tracked. The majority of the remaining towns have now submitted their Town Investment Plans and these are being assessed by officials in the Department.</p> <p>Furthermore, on 26 December 2020, we announced that up to £830 million has been allocated from the Future High Streets Fund. 15 areas have been awarded £255 million, with a further 57 areas to receive provisional funding of £576 million. This is a major boost for local high streets. The investment will support areas to recover from the pandemic and help transform underused town centres into vibrant places to live, work and shop.</p> <p>Here</p>
08/02/21	Press release	LGA	Final Local Government Finance Settlement House of Commons, 10 February 2021. Here
09/02/21	Written questions	MHCLG	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - UIN 146784 Jon Trickett, Hemsworth (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,

			<p>Communities and Local Government, which representatives were present at the 26 engagement events relating to the development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): The Government has been engaging with key stakeholders on the design and priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund since 2016, including holding a series of engagement events. Over 500 stakeholders attended these events across a variety of sectors, including businesses, public bodies (such as Local Enterprise Partnerships, Mayoral Combined Authorities, and local councils), higher education institutions, the voluntary and charity sector and rural partnership groups. Our engagement events have taken place across the UK including in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. We will continue to work closely with interested parties as we develop the fund. Here</p>
11/02/21	Debate	MHCLG	<p>Local Government Finance (England) - Summary</p> <p>The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, moved a motion that the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2021-22 (HC 1200), which was laid before this House on 4 February, be approved. More here</p>
12/02/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Local Growth Deals 2021 - UIN 149244</p> <p>Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many projects have been delivered in each Local Enterprise Partnership through Local Growth Deals in each round of the Growth Deal programme. [</p> <p>Paul Scully, Sutton and Cheam (Con): All payments from the 3 rounds of Growth Deals have been issued to Local Enterprise partnerships (LEPs) as of last year. LEPs are continuing to deliver the projects funded under these deals and currently there are 2109 Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects across all 38 LEPs as shown in the table. Here</p> <p>Black County, 64 Buckinghamshire Thames Valley, 34 Cheshire and Warrington, 59 Coast to Capital, 88 Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, 27</p>

			<p>Coventry and Warwickshire, 35 Cumbria, 34 Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, 55 Dorset, 39 Enterprise M3, 88 Greater Lincolnshire, 36 Gloucestershire, 28 Greater Manchester, 69 Greater Cambridge and Peterborough, 51 Heart of the South West, 53 Hertfordshire, 67 Humber 51 Lancashire, 52 London, 143 Leeds City Region, 160 Leicester, 20 Liverpool City Region, 138 New Anglia, 48 North East, 63 Oxfordshire, 31 Sheffield City Region, 80 Solent, 38 South East, 94 South East Midlands, 58 Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, 32 Swindon and Wiltshire, 24 Tees Valley, 48 Thames Valley Berkshire, 43 The Marches, 21 West of England, 50 Worcestershire, 24 York, North Yorkshire and East Riding, 64 Total Projects, 2109</p>
12/02/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Local Growth Deals - UIN 149245 <u>Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has calculated an estimate of the return on investment from projects delivered by Local Growth Deals funding for each of those deals agreed with Local Enterprise Partnerships and if he will publish that calculation. <u>Paul Scully, Sutton and Cheam (Con):</u> The Local Growth Fund has invested in high value projects in England to boost local economic growth, including transport, skill, business support and housing projects to name but a few. This has empowered local areas to identify and bring forward genuine local priorities. Local Enterprise Partnerships have reported that, to date over £15 billion of public and private sector investment has</p>

			been leveraged through Local Growth Fund investment. Here
17/02/21	Statistics	MHCLG	National non-domestic rates collected by councils in England: forecast for 2021 to 2022. Here
18/02/21	Press release	LEP Network	LEPs are "an enabler for local government" says LEP Network Chair Mark Bretton. Here
19/02/21	Press release	HM Treasury	Business Rates Review Update: the final report of the government's fundamental review of business rates will now be published in the Autumn. Here

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
17/02/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Planning: Urban Areas - UIN 151610 Sir John Hayes, South Holland and The Deepings (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to rejuvenate town centres.</p> <p>Luke Hall, Thornbury and Yate (Con): This Government is fully committed to supporting the businesses and communities that make our high streets and town centres successful as the nation responds to the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. Government is working to deliver a package of long-term measures that support town centre regeneration. This includes the £3.6 billion Towns Fund, which will support an initial 101 places across England to secure Town Deals. It will support local areas to renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability. In September 2020, we brought forward over £80 million funding in to support immediate improvements in 101 towns selected for deals to "build back better" in the wake of COVID-19.</p> <p>On the 26 December 2020, the Secretary of State confirmed £255 million for fifteen areas from the Future High Streets Fund, with a further 57 areas receiving provisional funding offers totalling up to £576 million. Further, the Government is launching a new Levelling Up Fund. This Fund will invest in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities and will support economic recovery. We will publish a prospectus for the Fund soon. We are</p>

			providing support to local leadership in England with a High Streets Task Force, giving them expert advice to support their high streets and town centres to adapt and thrive. This is providing hands-on support to local areas to develop data-driven innovative strategies and connect local areas to relevant experts, and will operate up to 2024. Here

Transport – automated & electric vehicles, hydrogen

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/02/21	Press release	DfT	Government powers up electric vehicle revolution with £20 million chargepoints boost. Here
04/02/21	Written question	DfT	Electric Scooters: York - UIN 145059 Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the cost of hire charges for e-scooters on the level of take-up during the e- scooter pilot in York. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con) : An assessment of the impact that e- scooter hire charges have on the level and nature of take-up in the trials will be made as part of our comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of national trials. Initial findings are due in the Autumn. Here
23/02/21	Written question	DfT	Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation UIN 153116 John Spellar, Warley (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending the renewable transport fuel obligation to include existing renewable capacity. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con) : The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) has been successful in promoting a market for a broad range of low carbon fuels. Low carbon fuels eligible for reward under the RTFO include renewable hydrogen made using renewable energy from existing production capacity. We plan to consult on potential changes to the RTFO scheme later this year. This will include proposals on how renewable hydrogen can be further supported, whilst respecting the principle of not diverting renewable energy away from existing uses and causing additional greenhouse

			gas emissions. The consultation will be accompanied by a cost benefit analysis. Here
25/02/21	Press release	DfT	Fuelling a greener future: E10 petrol set for September 2021 launch. Here

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/02/21	Press release	DfT	£9 million fund opens to railway innovators and inventors: Here
15/02/21	Press release	DfT	Funding to fix equivalent of 10 million potholes allocated to local authorities. Here
15/02/21	Press release	CCN	Local road maintenance and pothole filling funding 2021/22; CCN Response. Here
15/02/21	Press release	Living Streets	"Don't forget pavement potholes". Here
18/02/21	Press release	Living Streets	Living Streets welcomes massive year for walking - Living Streets publishes its Annual Report. Here
22/02/21	Press release	Labour Party	Councils face £375m pothole swindle, Labour analysis shows. Here
25/02/21	Press release	Urban Transport Group	City regions make case for new deal for urban transport in run up to Budget. Here
25/02/21	Written question	DfT	Roads: Repairs and Maintenance - UIN 155221 Andrea Jenkyns, Morley and Outwood (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what financial and other support he is providing to local authorities to improve the condition of roads. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): The Department has allocated over £2.6 billion for local highways maintenance for the period 2020/21 to 2021/22 to local highways authorities in England, outside London. Here

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

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
17/02/21	Press release	Midlands Connect	Midlands' 'oyster-style' smart ticketing system 'essential part of levelling-up agenda' say MPs. Here

Brexit – BEIS, Defra, MHCLG, & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes