**ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring**

**November 2018**

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:**

Summer recess: 24 July - 4 September

Conference: 13 September – 9 October

* Lib Dem: 15 – 18 September
* Labour: 23 – 26 September
* Conservative: 30 September – 3 October
* Green: 5 - 7 October

November: 6 – 12 November

Christmas: 20 December – 7 January

**Planning – Housing**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 19/11 | Written Q&A | HCLG | Regional Planning and Development: North of England:Written question - [191471](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-14/191471)Asked by [**Kate Hollern**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/kate-hollern/4363)To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what progress has been made on the northern powerhouse project since 2014. Answered by: [**Jake Berry**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jake-berry/4060)Since the Northern Powerhouse was launched in 2014, we have seen increased investment, enhanced international profile for the North and devolved new powers to the North. Since 2014, we have:* Released £3.4 billion of Local Growth Funding to locally-determined projects across the North. The Lancashire Growth Deal - £320 million – is the largest of its kind outside of city regions. This has included 17 transport schemes, including £9million for the Clitheroe to Manchester Rail Line.
* Created the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund, worth £400 million, to support SME’s to grow and scale-up. To date, this has supported 280 businesses.
* This Government has delivered unprecedented levels of investment in better transport across the North – over £13 billion (between 2015/16 – 2020/21) – more than any Government in history. We’ve given Transport for the North, £260 million, and equipped them with statutory powers to develop a Strategic Northern Transport Plan. The new Northern franchise will deliver new trains through the Northern Connect service, linking Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley and Chorley.
* Supported improvements in education in the North with £70 million for the Northern Powerhouse Schools Strategy.
* Boosted the international profile of the Northern Powerhouse through a commitment of £15 million to support Northern Powerhouse Trade Missions and £7 million for a Northern Powerhouse Taskforce to boost trade and investment – completed over 50 missions, 18 in the last year alone.

We seek to build on this success and have committed to refresh the Northern Powerhouse Strategy at Autumn Budget 2018. |

**Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 1/11 | Press Release | BEIS | New Industrial Strategy Council meets as membership announced. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-industrial-strategy-council-meets-as-membership-announced). |
| 13/11 | Oral Evidence | HoC | Industrial Strategy: Sector Deals and Productivity, HC 277. [Read here.](http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-committee/industrial-strategy-sector-deals-and-productivity/oral/92512.html) |
| 27/11 | Press Release | National Infrastructure Commission | Industrial Strategy one year on: Armitt welcomes continued central role for infrastructure. [Read here](https://www.nic.org.uk/news/industrial-strategy-one-year-on-armitt-welcomes-continued-central-role-for-infrastructure/).  |
|  |  |  |  |

**NPPF – Land value capture**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 29/11 | Debate | HoC | Planning: South Somerset. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-11-28/debates/1837BC0F-657D-457C-AD62-933FBC78F658/PlanningSouthSomerset)  |

**Energy – Local Authority projects**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates |

**Digital – broadband & mobile**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 14/11 | Papers | HoC | Superfast Broadband in the UK. [Read here.](https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06643) |

**Economy – Fair funding review**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 28/11 | Oral Answer | HoL | Local Government [Baroness Pinnock](https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Lords&memberId=4341)To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the planned local government fair funding allocation will provide local authorities with the resources needed to provide sufficient and effective local services.Full answer [here](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2018-11-27/debates/6E4734D6-1132-41F5-BDE1-30AD1F70E8F2/LocalGovernment). |

**Transport – Investment strategy**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 1/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | T[ransport: Infrastructure:Written question - 184953](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-29/184953)Asked by [**Gloria De Piero**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/gloria-de-piero/3915)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to transport infrastructure projects in each region of England in each of the past three years; and what estimate he has made of that funding per head of population in those regions.Answered by: [**Jesse Norman**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jesse-norman/3991)Answered on: 01 November 2018Figures on public sector expenditure at a regional level are part of the Government’s Country and Regional Analysis (CRA) statistics.The latest CRA statistics, published by HM Treasury in November 2017, present data up to 2016-17 and are published at:<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/country-and-regional-analysis>. The statistics include spend on transport by all public sector organisations including the Department for Transport, Local Authorities, Public Corporations (in the case of transport, this is mainly spend by London Underground) and other Government Departments including devolved administrations.When assessing expenditure across regions it is important to compare like with like. The benefits from spend on transport interventions often accrue to people far beyond the residents of the immediate local area or region. This is particularly the case for spending on the railways which connect cities and regions across the country and deliver broader benefits beyond the region concerned. Furthermore, when expenditure is presented on a “per head of population”(or “per capita”) basis, it does not account for the pressure that large numbers of commuters and visitors from outside a region can add to the transport networks. In addition, larger built-up areas tend to make greater use of mass public transport systems, though these will generate fares income which contributes to their operating costs.Statistics for public sector capital expenditure by region are given in Table 1 below. Table 2 provides the equivalent statistics per capita. Capital expenditure has been used as a proxy for spending on infrastructure specifically.Answer cont… |
| 6/11 | Press Release | Birmingham Airport | Birmingham Airport to invest £500 million to grow passengers to 18 million by 2033. [Read here.](http://www.bqlive.co.uk/midlands/2018/11/06/news/birmingham-airport-to-invest-500m-to-grow-passengers-to-18-million-by-2033-34202/)  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Transport – Major road network**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 5/11 | Debate | House of Commons | Road Safety. [Read here](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-11-05/debates/B5399488-0B81-43B3-A671-D726236A59DA/RoadSafety). |
| 7/11 | Press Release | Highways England | Better journeys ahead with groundbreaking contract awards. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-journeys-ahead-with-groundbreaking-contract-awards). |
| 5/11 | Written Q&A | Treasury | [A303 and Lower Thames Crossing: Private Finance Initiative:Written question - 185590](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-30/185590)Asked by [**Stella Creasy**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/stella-creasy/4088)To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the funding allocated to the upgrade of the A303 and the Lower Thames Crossing will include private finance. Answered by: [**Elizabeth Truss**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/elizabeth-truss/4097)The Budget announced that government will no longer use Private Finance 2 (the successor to the Private Finance Initiative) for new projects. The upgrade of the A303 and the Lower Thames Crossing will therefore not use Private Finance 2. |
| 9/11 | Written Q&A | DoT | [M20: Repairs and Maintenance:Written question - 186153](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-31/186153)Asked by [**Damian Green**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/damian-green/76)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the progress of road works on the M20 between Junctions 3 and 6; and if he will make a statement. Answered by: [**Jesse Norman**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jesse-norman/3991)Work to upgrade the M20 between junctions 3 and 5 to a smart motorway began in March 2018. The scheme is estimated to be open for traffic in March 2020. The main construction milestones for the M20 smart motorway scheme are on track to be met. These include works within the verge and central reserve to be completed by the end of November 2019. |
| 15/11 | Press Release | DfT | A6 Manchester Airport Relief Road completed and opened. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-jobs-linked-to-new-manchester-airport-road). |
| 22/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | M11:Written question - [HL11583](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-19/HL11583)Asked by [**Baroness Redfern**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-redfern/4551)To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering extending the M11 using funds announced for road infrastructure in the Budget. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)The Government is using evidence gathered about local priorities for road investment, such as the proposal to extend the M11, to inform the development of the second Road Investment Strategy. Investment decisions, using the £25.3 billion announced at Budget, will be confirmed in late 2019. |
|  |  |  |  |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates. |

**Transport – Automated** **electric vehicle bills**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates |

**Transport – Rail**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 01/11 | Press release | Transport Salaried Staff  | Beware the Spin on Spending Plans. [Read here.](https://www.tssa.org.uk/en/whats-new/news/index.cfm/beware-the-spin-on-spending-plans)  |
| 01/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Govia Thameslink Railway: Rolling Stock: Written question - 183472](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-24/183472)Asked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the performance of GTR’s Class 700 in relation to Miles per Technical Incident in each of the last three reporting periods. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039) Answered on: 01 November 2018Performance of the class 700 trains has steadily improved since they were first introduced in 2016, similarly to other new train fleets as initial teething issues are resolved. The Department continues to monitor the performance of the fleet to ensure that it can deliver train services for passengers across the network. The last of the new trains was accepted into passenger service earlier this summer. As further timetable changes are delivered, passengers will experience the full benefits of the Thameslink programme with improving reliability and higher capacity trains. |
| 01/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Great Western Railway: Rolling Stock:Written question - 183473](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-24/183473)Asked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of adequacy of the performance of Great Western Railway’s Class 800s in relation to Miles per Technical incident for the last three reporting periods. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039)The introduction of the new IET fleet is similar to the experience with other new train fleets and we anticipate that performance will continue to improve as the full fleet is introduced and initial teething issues are resolved.The full benefits of these IETs, including faster journey times and increased capacity, will be delivered once the full fleet is in service and a new timetable has been introduced. |
| 2/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Construction:Written question - 184937](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-29/184937)Asked by [**Adam Afriyie**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/adam-afriyie/1586)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many rail market-led proposals for the construction of new railways by private sector firms he has received; and if he will list those proposals. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039)The department has received 30 responses to its call for ideas for market-led proposals to enhance the railway, which it launched in March this year. These submissions covered a wide range of railway enhancements, but the department cannot make an announcement about individual schemes at this time as these proposals were submitted in confidence and such disclosure may prejudice the commercial interests of the proposers. Individual promoters will be contacted later in the autumn. |
| 2/11 | Press Release | Network Rail | Network Rail secures record £2bn to provide a better railway for passengers. [Read here.](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/feeds/network-rail-secures-record-2bn-to-provide-a-better-railway-for-passengers-in-hampshire/)  |
| 5/11 | Press Relesae | Labour party | 25 years of rail privatisation. [Read here](https://labour.org.uk/press/catastrophic-effect-rail-privatisation-revealed-25-years/).  |
| 2/11 | Press Release | RMT | RMT to go ahead with ballot of Paddington depot members. [Read here.](https://www.rmt.org.uk/news/rmt-to-go-ahead-with-ballot-of-paddington-depot-members/) |
| 5/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Manchester-Sheffield Railway Line:Written question - 186321](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-31/186321)Asked by [**Dan Jarvis**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/dan-jarvis/4243)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when his Department plans to deliver the funding promised to South Yorkshire to improve journey times along the Hope Valley Line. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039)The Department for Transport (DfT) published a new approach to rail enhancements in March 2018. Full guidance on the RNEP can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rail-network-enhancements-pipeline](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rail-network-enhancements-pipeline%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).This new approach to rail enhancements is designed to ensure that future rail projects are properly planned and scrutinised to deliver maximum value and benefit to rail users and taxpayers.The Department is updating the business case for the Hope Valley Capacity scheme to secure a ‘Decision to Deliver’.When we are in a position to announce a delivery date, it will be with the assurance that it is value for money and deliverable by that date. We anticipate being in that position within the next year. |
| 5/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Electrification:Written question - 186231](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-31/186231)Asked by [**Mr Gregory Campbell**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/mr-gregory-campbell/1409)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2018 to Question 134595 on Railways: Electrification, what the expected timetable is for introduction of new electric powered trains. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039)A number of operators currently have orders that are being designed or manufactured and the table below shows when those operators plan to commence the introduction of new electric trains over the coming years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Planned Introduction** |
| TfL Elizabeth Line | Being Introduced |
| Great Western | Being Introduced |
| Great Northern | Being Introduced |
| Northern | Early 2019 |
| London North Eastern Railway | Early 2019 |
| London Overground | Early 2019 |
| TransPennine Express | Summer 2019 |
| Greater Anglia | Autumn 2019 |
| Hull Trains | Late 2019 |
| Merseyrail | Late 2019 |
| South Western Railway | Late 2019 |
| West Midlands Trains | 2020/2021 |
| c2c | Late 2021 |

 |
| 5/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Cross Country Trains: Rolling Stock:Written question - 185810](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-30/185810)Asked by [**Luke Pollard**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/luke-pollard/4682)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with representatives of CrossCountry trains on the replacement of rolling stock after the first batch of Voyager trains comes off lease next year. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039)The Department has cancelled the Cross Country franchise competition in light of the Rail Review. It is now considering options for the next franchise once the current contract ends in October 2019, so passengers continue to get the services they need. The chosen option will address the need for suitable rolling stock. |
| 6/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railway Stations: Disability:Written question - 186946](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-01/186946)Asked by [**Mr Jim Cunningham**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/mr-jim-cunningham/308)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what proportion of railway stations have step-free access. Answered by: [**Ms Nusrat Ghani**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/ms-nusrat-ghani/4460)Around 20% of stations in the UK have step free access to and between every platform, which accounts for approximately 75% of journeys.This compares with only 50% of journeys in 2005.We remain committed to continuing to invest in the accessibility of the railway and have made an additional £300m available for our Access for All programme during the next five year Control Period (2019-24).Information on the facilities available at railway stations is collected and held by the Rail Delivery Group, rather than the Department.Accessibility information about individual stations is published on the National Rail Enquiries website. |
| 5/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Gatwick Airport Station:Written question - HL10994](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-24/HL10994)Asked by [**Lord Bradshaw**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bradshaw/2483)To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 22 October (HL10461), how much they have spent on the Gatwick Airport railway station since 2013; and how much Gatwick Airport has contributed towards this. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)Network Rail and Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) have funded day to day expenditure on the station which is not immediately quantifiable. Since 2013, more than £11.6 million has been spent on developing the Gatwick Airport Station enhancement scheme, funded by the Department for Transport and Gatwick Airport Ltd (GAL). If the enhancement scheme proceeds, GAL will make an additional funding contribution to the construction costs. |
| 5/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Cross Country Rail Franchise:Written question - HL10993](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-24/HL10993)Asked by [**Lord Bradshaw**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bradshaw/2483)To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 22 October (HL10462), whether they will put in place short term temporary arrangements to deal with overcrowding across the Cross Country Trains network. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)The Department is considering a number of different rolling stock options, to reduce overcrowding in both the short and long term, but it is too early, at present, to say what the detail of that will be. |
| 5/11 | Press Release | Lib Dems | HS2 another line chalked on Grayling’s CV of failure. [Read here.](https://www.libdemvoice.org/hs2-is-it-worth-it-59072.html)  |
| 5/11 | Press Release | Conservatives | **Conservative response to Labour on rail privatisation**Responding, Jo Johnson MP, Minister of State for Transport said: " Privatisation has improved the railways for passengers and taxpayers. Passenger journeys have now doubled and investment is at record levels. But we know that for some passengers, they aren't getting the service they deserve. That's why we've launched a sweeping review, to make sure trains arrive on time, and that fares are value for money. "In contrast, Labour's ideological renationalisation would lead to less choice and poorer services. It would put politicians in control of our vital services, meaning nowhere for people to turn when things go wrong."Only the Conservatives will take the balanced approach to the economy which is delivering the infrastructure to better connect people and businesses". |
| 9/11 | Written Q&A | Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government | [Devolution: Yorkshire and the Humber:Written question - 187067](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-01/187067)Asked by [**Rachael Maskell**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/rachael-maskell/4471)(York Central)To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will take steps to secure progress for a One Yorkshire devolution deal. Answered by: [**Jake Berry**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jake-berry/4060)Whilst we are considering the material 18 councils and the Sheffield City Region Mayor submitted to us about a One Yorkshire proposal, our priority remains the full implementation of the Sheffield City Region. The Mayor was elected on a commitment to implement this deal in full, and we will support him in this ambition. |
| 9/11 | Corrospondence | HoC | **Correspondence regarding Department for Transport Crossrail funding**The House of Commons   Public Accounts Committee has published correspondence regarding Department for Transport Crossrailfunding - 2.11.2018.  The full letter can be read here:  [https://bit.ly/2z3jsEp](https://bit.ly/2z3jsEp%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)   |
| 9/11 | Press Release | Network Rail | Farmers are dicing with death at level crossings, as one incident involving a farming vehicle is reported on average every week in Britain. [Read here.](https://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/farmers-are-dicing-with-death-at-level-crossings-as-one-incident-involving-a-farming-vehicle-is-reported-on-average-every-week-in-britain) |
| 12/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: North of England:Written question - HL11126](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-30/HL11126)Asked by [**Lord Greaves**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-greaves/2569)To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the development funding to be made available for Northern Powerhouse Rail announced in the Budget is additional to that which is already being spent on that project by Transport for the North; if so, what it will be spent on and when; and whether the spending of those funds depends on decisions which will be made following the publication of the business case at the end of this year. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)The £37m made available at Budget for financial year 2019-20 to develop Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) is in addition to funds already being spent by Transport for the North to develop the scheme. This will be used to take forward development work on NPR following the submission of the business case at the end of this year. |
| 12/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: North of England:Written question - HL11112](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-29/HL11112)Asked by [**Lord Truscott**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-truscott/3682)To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) investing in improving rail connectivity between northern cities, and (2) the economic benefits of such investment compared to those anticipated from HS2. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)By 2020 we will have spent over £13bn improving and modernising transport in the North of England. This investment includes providing better rail journeys through the Great North Rail Project. We have also upgraded the network between Liverpool and Manchester and the two new franchises are delivering more than 500 brand-new train carriages, with room for 40,000 more passengers and 2,000 extra services a week. In Liverpool City Region, £340m is being invested between now and 2019 to provide a bigger, better, more reliable railway for passengers.The Government is committed to Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) – a transformational programme to bring the cities of the North closer together with faster and more frequent rail links. At Budget the Chancellor announced a further £37m to develop the scheme. This is on top of the £60m we have made available to Transport for the North to develop the business case for the scheme by the end of this year and will include an assessment of the economic benefits of the scheme.HS2 brings similar benefits in improved connectivity between the major cities of the North and Midlands. The HS2 business case shows over £92 billion of benefits including £18 billion of wider benefits e.g. – delivering more than £2 of benefits for every £1 of investment. This represents good value for money and is in line with other major rail schemes.HS2 is also critical in engineering terms to delivering Northern Powerhouse Rail as HS2 infrastructure is assumed to be used by NPR services. The Chancellor announced £300m in October 2017 to ensure that HS2 is future-proofed for Northern Powerhouse Rail. |
| 13/11 | Press Release | DfT | Consultation Outcome: HS2 property price support scheme government response. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-property-price-support-scheme-government-response) |
| 13/11 | Press Release | DfT | Consultation Outcome: HS2 property price support scheme technical consultation. [Read Here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-property-price-support-scheme-technical-consultation#history) |
| 13/11 | Press Release | Railway Industrial Association | RIA welcomes new Rail Minister. [Read here.](https://www.riagb.org.uk/RIA/Newsroom/Press_Releases/New_Rail_Minister.aspx) |
| 13/11 | Press Release | DfT | High speed rail international benchmarking study. [Read here](https://bit.ly/2PXAAFh). |
| 13/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [High Speed Two: Pay and Working Hours:Written question - 189517](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-09/189517)Asked by [**Dame Cheryl Gillan**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/dame-cheryl-gillan/18)(Chesham and Amersham)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will publish the (a) annual salary and (b) number of hours worked each month for each member of the board of HS2 Ltd. Answered by: [**Ms Nusrat Ghani**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/ms-nusrat-ghani/4460)Non-Executive Directors are paid a fee rather than a salary and this information, together with the salaries of Executive Directors, is disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts available at [https://www.hs2.org.uk/documents/collections/hs2-ltd-corporate-reports/](https://www.hs2.org.uk/documents/collections/hs2-ltd-corporate-reports/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Non-Executive Board members are required to work an average of two days per calendar month as per their Terms and Conditions of Appointment and receive a fee of £950 per day. Additional days worked are remunerated at the same daily rate upon presentation of days worked. Therefore we do not record hours. The Non-Executive Chairman receives an annual rate of £200,000 on the expectation of an average time commitment of 2.5 days per week. |
| 14/11 | Press Release | Which? | Broken rail complaints system leaves passengers high and dry. [Read here](https://press.which.co.uk/whichpressreleases/broken-rail-complaints-system-leaves-passengers-high-and-dry/). |
| 15/11 | Oral Answer | PMO | [Overcrowding on Trains](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-11-14/debates/C03B9E77-08F3-4B28-A9A9-3229779FCCF9/Engagements)Alec Shelbrooke (Elmet and Rothwell) (Con) Q13. Does my right hon. Friend agree that while the Government have invested millions in our railways, when my constituents are still suffering from chronic overcrowding on carriages it is incumbent on Network Rail to deliver projects on time, so that new rolling stock can be quickly put in place to alleviate the overcrowding?The Prime Minister My hon. Friend highlights the fact that we are delivering the biggest rail investment programme since the Victorian era. He says we are spending millions on our railways, but actually we will be spending nearly £48 billion on modernising and renewing our railways, which will deliver better journeys and fewer disruptions. He is right, however, that it is absolutely vital that Network Rail delivers its projects on time. I am told that Northern's new rolling stock is currently planned to serve lines from June and July next year, but I know he has been campaigning excellently on this issue, and I encourage him to continue to do so. |
| 15/11 | Press Release | HS2 | HS2 Residents’ Commissioner report 10. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-commissioner-report-10). |
| 15/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [High Speed Two and Network Rail: Disclosure of Information:Written question - HL11229](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-05/HL11229)Asked by [**Lord Berkeley**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-berkeley/3526)To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Network Rail and HS2 have whistleblower policies; and if so, where those policies are published. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)HS2 Ltd has had a Whistleblowing Policy since 2014. It was updated in 2018 to incorporate the launch of the “Speak Out” reporting line. The Whistleblowing Policy is published internally on the HS2 Ltd intranet. HS2 Ltd is now working on launching the “Speak Out” reporting line outside of HS2 Ltd. At present, where any whistleblowing allegations are raised to the HS2 Helpdesk, such allegations are referred to HS2’s independent “Speak Out” line supplier.Network Rail’s whistleblowing policy is published online on the Network Rail website and is available [here](https://cdn.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Speak-Out-Policy-2017.pdf). |
| 15/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Tickets:Written question - 188919](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-06/188919)Asked by [**David Simpson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/david-simpson/1597)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress his Department has made on delivering smart ticketing across the rail network by the end of 2018. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)The Government’s £80m investment in accelerating smart ticketing builds on previous and existing franchise commitments, and sits alongside Government funding for Transport for the North’s smart ticketing programme and the Rail Delivery Group’s investment in barcode technology. Together, these programmes mean that the rail industry is on track to deliver a smart card or barcode option for singles, returns and seasons for journeys across almost all of the rail network by the end of the year.Rail ticketing in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. |
| 15/11 | Speech | DfT | DfT: Speech by Chris Grayling at the Northern Transport conference on an ambitious transport programme being fundamental to the Northern Powerhouse (15 November 2018). [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambitious-transport-programme-is-fundamental-to-the-northern-powerhouse). |
| 15/11 | Press Release | DfT | Rail Minister backs 'life-changing' community rail projects. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rail-minister-backs-life-changing-community-rail-projects). |
| 19/11 | Press Release | HS2 ltd | HS2 kicks off hunt for Birmingham Curzon Street construction teams. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-kicks-off-hunt-for-birmingham-curzon-street-construction-teams) |
| 20/11 | Press Release | ORR | Consultation outcome Network Rail periodic review 2018: draft determination. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/network-rail-periodic-review-2018-draft-determinationhttps%3A//www.gov.uk/government/consultations/network-rail-periodic-review-2018-draft-determination) |
| 23/11 | Written Q&A | DfT | Cross Country Railway Line: Overcrowding:Written question - [192928](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192928)Asked by [**Martin Whitfield**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/martin-whitfield/4626)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has had discussions with the Cross Country train-operating company on overcrowding on its services; and if he will make a statement. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)My officials meet regularly with Cross Country to discuss a range of issues including crowding on trains. Currently, there is no suitable rolling stock available that could be used on this franchise to alleviate the services which suffer overcrowding. We are, however, working with Cross Country to see what other opportunities might exist to reduce overcrowding. |
| 26/11 | Press Release | IoSH | Past incidents must be “catalyst” for rail safety improvements. [Read here](https://www.iosh.co.uk/News/IOSH-Rail-Conference-2018.aspx).  |
| 26/11 | Press Release | ORR | Consultation outcome: Invitation to comment on Network Rail’s strategic...[Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/invitation-to-comment-on-network-rails-strategic-business-plans-for-cp6#history)  |
| 26/11 | Press Release | ORR | Consultation Outcome: Implementing the 2018 Network Rail periodic review: track and station access contracts. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-the-2018-network-rail-periodic-review-track-and-station-access-contracts).  |
| 27/11 | Press Release | HS2 Letd | HS2 Ltd response to Construction Commissioner's 6th report. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-ltd-response-to-construction-commissioners-6th-report). |
| 28/11 | Debate | HoC | South Eastern Rail Franchise. [Read Here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-11-27/debates/8DE740C2-A928-432E-9133-6069505886A0/SouthEasternRailFranchise) |
| 28/11 | Press Release | Stop HS2 | HS2 boss refuses to reveal ‘cost gap’ of ‘unaffordable’ project. [Read here.](http://stophs2.org/news/17707-hs2-boss-refuses-reveal-cost-gap-unaffordable-hs2) |
|  |  |  |  |

**Devolution deals**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 2/11 | Press Release | Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government | ‘A golden era’ heralded for North East as North of Tyne devolution deal becomes law. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-golden-era-heralded-for-north-east-as-north-of-tyne-devolution-deal-becomes-law)  |
| 5/11 | Press Release | LEP Network | Regional Government strengthened in the North East. [Read here.](https://www.lepnetwork.net/news-and-events/2018/november/regional-government-strengthened-in-the-north-east/)  |
| 7/11 | Oral Answer | HM Treasury  | John Grogan (Keighley) (Lab)13. What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on the proposed One Yorkshire devolution deal. [Answer here.](https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/3493782dddab48dab69647f7a422af9f)  |
| 8/11 | Press Release | Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government | North of Tyne Combined Authority devolution deal. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-of-tyne-combined-authority-devolution-deal).  |
| 20/11 | Written Q&A | HCLG | Devolution: Yorkshire and the Humber:Written question - [907693](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-14/907693)Asked by [**John Grogan**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/john-grogan/382)To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposals for One Yorkshire devolution on the Yorkshire economy. Answered by: [**Jake Berry**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jake-berry/4060)We are considering the material provided.The Government has already agreed a devolution deal for the Sheffield City Region. We look forward to this being implemented in full. It will bring £900 million of much needed new funding to the city region, and put power in the hands of local people. |

**Environment – 25 year environment plan**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates. |

**Environment – Waste**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates. |

**Environment – Air Quality**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates. |

**Brexit – BEIS, Defra, HCLG, DExEU & committees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 14/11 | PMQs | HoC | PMQs: Draft deal a "halfway house" argues Corbyn. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-14/debates/C03B9E77-08F3-4B28-A9A9-3229779FCCF9/Engagements) |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

To query:

 [- East Coast Railway Line: Trains](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-06/188829)

[Crossrail Line](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-31/HL11175) (plus four more on 12/11)

[Railways: Yorkshire and the Humber](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-30/HL11125)

[Railways: Electrification](https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/91861e7004974d369f30ad6c504e5aef)

[Railways: North of England](https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/856c31190de847918483ee29923e7df5)

[Commenting on how well rail companies deal with complaints](https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/news-events-media/news/commenting-well-rail-companies-deal-complaints/)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-09/189519>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/abd070b13cda477a806d31eaf36d59b5>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-11-21/debates/083AA717-4367-48F1-90AC-9125FBC285B1/Devolution>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11396>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/cf4aff031ab14c8581ea81b474dd7310>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/56e104ffae60479d8f72cbbc050e8e0f>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/c45e898225f947de805e6a16adad6920>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/62b79d11619941a9a65ae3dd53786100>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/cc914e37afa141259ac510f97f60a574>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/d239ff0c17a14e3c9fcee4f1ac21ecde>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/d2f98ac94e7e48f2adc523daeb9b0244>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/064c681b6e7d49e4aa7d9b1b63164329>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/0496de82d4914ad8a589b4ea26ec96d5>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/ca121dc9c1ff4732a47dee12b5c93f54>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/beaf2b8269a34326a110dca932fcd7a2>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/782332ed96da4e6f8ade0ec01317a143>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/70697a13ec8a4d7d8cb08242a5fa9bda>

<https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/06dafe909b1b4755bae6d2d50f103ea7>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-11-28/debates/A39AB374-2392-4150-BB9E-A75543784F52/Engagements>