**ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring**

**October 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**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 01/10 | Press release | West Midlands CA | £165m housing and infrastructure investment announced to support Commonwealth Games. [Read here.](https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/165m-housing-and-infrastructure-investment-announced-to-support-commonwealth-games/) |

**Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 01/10 | Press release | Conservatitve Party | Can devolution and the Industrial Strategy unleash the potential of the English regions? |
| 16/10 | Oral Answer | BEIS | Industrial Strategy: Kevin Foster (Torbay) (Con) 11. What progress he has made through the industrial strategy on ensuring that the UK is the best place to start and grow a business. [907081] [Answer here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-16/debates/C15D656E-B799-46ED-91C9-6A1CD8045A86/IndustrialStrategy) |

**NPPF – Land value capture**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 18/10 | Press release | ICE | Public support for pay-as-you-go charges on UK's road network. [Read here.](https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/ice-press-centre/public-support-for-pay-as-you-go-road-charges) |

**Energy – Local Authority projects**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 19/10 | Press release | IEA | Energy efficiency is the cornerstone for building a secure and sustainable energy system. [Read here.](https://www.iea.org/newsroom/news/2018/october/energy-efficiency-is-the-answer-for-building-a-secure-and-sustainable-energy-syst.html) |

**Digital – broadband & mobile**

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

**Economy – Fair funding review**

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

**Transport – Investment strategy**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 26/10 | Debate | Hoc | Inclusive Transport Strategy. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-10-25/debates/2F6115CA-217D-4CE8-80F8-53309E0F9414/InclusiveTransportStrategy) |

**Transport – Major road network**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 08/10 | Press release | Highways England | Contract awarded to create reliable North West road network. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/contract-awarded-to-create-reliable-north-west-road-network) |
| 11/10 | Press release | RAC | Potholes continue to wreak havoc: drivers more than twice as likely to breakdown due to hitting one than 12 years ago. [Read here.](https://media.rac.co.uk/pressreleases/drivers-more-than-twice-as-likely-to-breakdown-due-to-hitting-a-pothole-than-12-years-ago-2759961) |
| 11/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Roads: North Devon: Written question - 906930](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/906930)Asked by [**Peter Heaton-Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/peter-heaton-jones/4524)Asked on: 11 October 2018What discussions he has had with Devon County Council on improvements to the North Devon link road. Answered by: [**Jesse Norman**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jesse-norman/3991) Answered on: 11 October 2018Department and Council officials have met to discuss the arrangements for taking forward the scheme to improve the North Devon Link Road between South Molton and Bideford which was announced in May. The meeting was constructive and we will continue to work closely with the Council leading up to their submission of a final business case in 2020. The Department has given provisional approval to investing £82.1m towards the £93.1m scheme. |
| 16/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Roads: Repairs and Maintenance:Written question - 176425](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176425)Asked by [**Rachael Maskell**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/rachael-maskell/4471)Asked on: 08 October 2018To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate he has made of the cost of all outstanding maintenance on the Strategic Road Network. Answered by: [**Jesse Norman**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jesse-norman/3991)Answered on: 16 October 2018Highways England has been tasked and funded to deliver maintenance of the strategic road network as part of the Government’s Road Investment Strategy up to 2019/20. The total planned maintenance spend for 2018/19 and 2019/20 is £2.1billion. The Government and Highways England believe that this funding will keep the Strategic Road Network in a safe and serviceable condition over this period. The Office of Rail and Road’s most recent annual assessment of Highways England’s performance, for 2017/18, reports that Highways England has improved the condition of its road network during the year and it is meeting its target to have at least 95% of the network in a good condition. |
| 17/10 | Written Q&A | DCMS | [5G: Railways: Written question - 177386](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177386)Asked by [**Luke Pollard**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/luke-pollard/4682)To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what rail lines are being considered for the 5G trials that will support improvements to rail passenger connectivity. Answered by: [**Margot James**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/margot-james/4115) Answered on: 17 October 2018At Autumn Budget 2017, the Government allocated £35 million to projects that will support improvement to rail passenger connectivity, including the Trans-Pennine Initiative (TPI). This is a joint project between the 5G Testbeds and Trials and Local Full Fibre Networks Programmes.The projects involved are to : * upgrade the Network Rail test track in Melton Mowbray, and
* to install trackside infrastructure along part of the Trans Pennine route, this will include the rollout of fibre between Manchester and York.
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| 29/10 | Press release | RAC | RAC statement on the ‘Budget boost for roads’ story. [Read here.](https://media.rac.co.uk/news/rac-welcomes-budget-boost-for-future-road-investment-329284) |
| 30/10 | Press release | DfT | Consultation Outcome: Shaping the future of England’s strategic roads (RIS2). [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shaping-the-future-of-englands-strategic-roads-ris2#history) |

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

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 05/10 | Press release | TfN | Transport for the North welcomes new trains for passengers. [Read here.](https://transportforthenorth.com/new-northern-trains/) |

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

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

**Transport – Rail**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 01/10 | Press release | Govia | Passengers given first glimpse of new trains set to transform Great Northern suburban service. [Read here.](https://www.railpro.co.uk/news/%E2%80%8Bpassengers-given-first-glimpse-of-new-trains-set-to-transform-great-northern-suburban-service) |
| 03/10 | Press release | RMT | RMT says new Northern trains long overdue. [Read here.](https://www.rmt.org.uk/news/rmt-says-new-northern-trains-long-overdue/) |
| 04/10 | Press relase | DfT | Britain’s high-speed future provides opportunity for all. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britains-high-speed-future-provides-opportunity-for-all) |
| 04/10 | Press release | DfT | Transport Secretary welcomes progress on East West Rail. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-welcomes-progress-on-east-west-rail) |
| 05/10 | Press release | DfT | Network Rail’s leaf-busting fleet will cover distance more than four times around the earth to tackle leaves on the line. [Read here.](https://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/network-rails-leaf-busting-fleet-covering-distance-more-than-four-times-around-the-earth-to-tackle-leaves-on-the-line) |
| 05/10 | Press release | DfT | First new trains in £500 million northern investment unveiled by Northern Powerhouse minister. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-new-trains-in-500-million-northern-investment-unveiled-by-northern-powerhouse-minister) |
| 09/10 | Press release | Lib Dems  | Farron to present Bill to make it easier to sack failing rail companies. [Read here.](https://www.cumbriacrack.com/2018/10/10/mp-to-present-bill-to-make-it-easier-to-sack-failing-rail-companies/) |
| 15/10 | Press release | DfT | Transport Secretary gives seal of approval to multi-million pound Liverpool Lime Street upgrade. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-gives-seal-of-approval-to-multi-million-pound-liverpool-lime-street-upgrade) |
| 19/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Rail Review: Written question - 178318](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178318)Asked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)(Middlesbrough)Asked on: 11 October 2018To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the (a) terms and conditions, (b) salary and (c) hours of work are for Keith Williams in relation to the Rail Review. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039) Answered on: 19 October 2018The Department has used its standard terms and conditions of public appointment, which do not prescribe a set working hours limit. The obligation for Mr Williams, as Chair of the Rail Review, is to fulfil the terms of reference that were announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 11th October 2018. Keith Williams has committed to the necessary time required to achieve this and is not being remunerated for his work as Chair of the Review. |
| 22/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: North of England: Written question - HL10622](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-11/HL10622)Asked by [**Lord Greaves**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-greaves/2569) Asked on: 11 October 2018To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive a feasibility study report into the creation of a new trans-Pennine freight route between Liverpool and Yorkshire, via Burnley, Skipton and Leeds, including a reinstatement of a double-track railway between Gannow Junction and Skipton. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584) Answered on: 22 October 2018We are working closely with Transport for the North and relevant local transport authorities to evaluate the costs, benefits and funding options for reinstating the Skipton-Colne line for passengers and freight, as part of a freight route across the Pennines. Work is advancing well and we expect to receive the results later this year in the form of a Strategic Outline Business Case prepared in line with the Government’s new pipeline approach to rail enhancements. |
| 22/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Crossrail: Written question - 179101](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179101)Asked by [**Mr Jim Cunningham**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/mr-jim-cunningham/308)(Coventry South)Asked on: 15 October 2018To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the cost to the public purse of the delay to Crossrail. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039)Answered on: 22 October 2018The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, covering a variety of subjects. |
| 23/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Flood Control: Written question - HL10503](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-09/HL10503)Asked by [**Lord Patten**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-patten/1137) Asked on: 09 October 2018To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to protect the railways in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall from flood water damage since 2012. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584) Answered on: 23 October 2018Network Rail have undertaken flood resilience work since 2012 at the following locations in Devon and Somerset: Cowley Bridge, Athelney, Hele & Bradninch, Flax Bourton, Whiteball and Axe & Broom. These were part of a programme of ten flood resilience schemes representing an investment of £31.3m by the Government. |
| 26/10 | Oral answer | HoC | [Crossrail](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-10-25/debates/EBC7CA60-8739-450F-AD3D-3E34007C1A2D/BusinessOfTheHouse)Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con) The crisis around Crossrail seems to worsen every single day, with the project delayed by nine months and having overspent by £600 million. Contradictory evidence seems to be being created by the Mayor of London and the Department for Transport, so may we have a Government statement on what is happening to get the project back on track and within budget?Andrea Leadsom My hon. Friend raises a very important issue. We have all been concerned to hear of the delays to Crossrail . I encourage him to raise it in the Budget debate next week where he can ask Treasury Ministers exactly what steps can be taken. |
| 29/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Devon:Written question - HL10636](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-15/HL10636)Asked by [**Lord Berkeley**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-berkeley/3526) Asked on: 15 October 2018To ask Her Majesty's Government on which occasions the rail services between Exeter and Newton Abbott have been disrupted by weather; and what progress has been made on making this stretch of line more resilient. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584) Answered on: 29 October 2018This an operational matter for Network Rail; the Department does not hold the information at the level of detail requested.The Government has been absolutely clear that ongoing investment in the South West’s transport infrastructure is key to unlocking the region’s economy, jobs and prosperity.Protecting the line at Dawlish is a national priority and we remain determined to find a permanent solution. £15m of funding has been made available to Network Rail to take forward to develop a solution. World-leading engineers have been carrying out detailed ground investigation to understand what is happening to the cliffs and coastline in three key areas around Dawlish and Teignmouth. These comprehensive studies are nearing completion, enabling Network Rail to show how they will take steps to protect the railway line and coastline. |
| 29/10 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Okehampton:Written question - HL10635](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-15/HL10635)Asked by [**Lord Berkeley**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-berkeley/3526) Asked on: 15 October 2018To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport in February that he had instructed Great Western Railway "to prepare plans to introduce regular train services to Okehampton", what progress has been made on such plans; and when they expect the service to start. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584) Answered on: 29 October 2018The Department’s response to its consultation on the future of the Great Western franchise published on 28 August said that the Department would “continue to work closely with local partners and the current franchisee to deliver the ‘Metro West’ scheme and the reinstatement of regular services to Okehampton.” Until it is clearer what the scope of work is that will be needed to reinstate regular services on this route, it is not possible to give an exact date for that reinstatement. |

**Devolution deals**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 08/10 | Press release | Joseph Rowntree Foundation | North unites to demand control over EU cash to rebalance the economy. [Read here.](https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/north-unites-demand-control-over-eu-cash-rebalance-economy) |
| 24/10 | Press release | WoE CA | Metro Mayors’ Summit calls for strengthened commitment to devolution through the re-focusing of funding on regional priorities. [Read here.](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/metro-mayors-summit-calls-strengthened-commitment-devolution-re-focusing-funding-regional-priorities/) |

**Environment – 25 year environment plan**

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

**Environment – Waste**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 08/10 | Press release | IEA | Modern bioenergy leads the growth of all renewables to 2023, according to latest IEA market forecast. [Read here.](https://www.iea.org/newsroom/news/2018/october/modern-bioenergy-leads-the-growth-of-all-renewables-to-2023-according-to-latest-.html) |

**Environment – Air Quality**

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

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

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 08/10 | Press release | Refrom | Government beyond Brexit: The State of the State 2018. [Read here.](http://www.reform.uk/publication/government-beyond-brexit-the-state-of-the-state-2018/) |
| 10/10 | Press release | CBI | **Budget to set tone for post-Brexit economy.** [Read here.](http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/budget-to-set-tone-for-post-brexit-economy/) |
| 10/10 | Press release | SMMT | SMMT launches Brexit contingency aid package as high-risk auto suppliers brace for ‘no-deal’. [Read here.](https://www.smmt.co.uk/2018/10/smmt-launches-brexit-contingency-aid-package-as-high-risk-auto-suppliers-brace-for-no-deal/) |
| 23/10 | Press release | CBI | Manufacturing weakens as Brexit uncertainty bites. [Read here.](http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/manufacturing-weakens-as-brexit-uncertainty-bites/) |
| 26/10 | Oral answer | DExEU | Leaving the EU: Devolved Administrations. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-10-25/debates/12FA9ED7-A420-4394-99DA-31E96AE8A91B/LeavingTheEUDevolvedAdministrations) |