**ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring**

**September 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 |
| 10/09 | Written Q&A | Treasury | [Right to Buy Scheme: Pilot Schemes:Written question – 169533](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169533)Asked by [**Alan Brown**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/alan-brown/4470)(Kilmarnock and Loudoun)Asked on: 03 September 2018To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what Barnett consequentials funding has been allocated relative to the £200 million in funding for the Midlands Voluntary Right to Buy Pilot announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 16 August 2018. Answered by: [**Elizabeth Truss**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/elizabeth-truss/4097)Answered on: 10 September 2018The 2017 Autumn Budget confirmed that government would proceed with a £200 million pilot of the Right to Buy for housing association tenants. An additional £70 million was allocated to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the devolved administrations received Barnett consequentials totalling £13 million.All Barnett consequentials are set out in the Block Grant Transparency Publication<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/block-grant-transparency-december-2017-publication>  |

**Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 25/09 | Press release | Usdaw | Usdaw calls for an industrial strategy to tackle the crisis in retail at the Mirror's High Street Fightback campaign fringe meeting. [Read here.](http://www.usdaw.org.uk/About-Us/News/2018/Sep/Usdaw-calls-for-an-industrial-strategy-to-tackle-t) |
| 25/09 | Press release | West England CA | Shaping the future of the region. [Read here.](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/shaping-future-region/) |

**NPPF – Land value capture**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 06/09 | Oral Evidence | HoC | Land Value Capture. [Read here.](http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/land-value-capture/oral/88749.html) |

**Energy – Local Authority projects**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
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**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 |
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**Transport – Investment strategy**

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

**Transport – Major road network**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 04/09 | Press release | Highways England | Multi-million improvements to get underway in Hull next month. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-improvements-to-get-underway-in-hull-next-month) |
| 07/09 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Roads: Capital Investment:Written question - 168110](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/168110)Asked by [**Luke Pollard**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/luke-pollard/4682)(Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport)Asked on: 24 July 2018To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when he plans to announce funding decisions for the second Road Investment Strategy funding period. Answered by: [**Jesse Norman**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jesse-norman/3991)Answered on: 07 September 2018The Government intends to publish the total public funds available to Highways England for the second Road Period in the coming months. Decisions about schemes to be funded in the second Road Investment Strategy period will be announced in 2019. |
| 12/09 | Ministerial Statement | DfT | Road scheme update - HCWS952. [Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-09-12/HCWS952/) |
| 12/09 | Press release | National Infrastructure Commission | Expressway decision could help boost long-term prosperity of Growth Arc. [Read here.](https://www.nic.org.uk/news/expressway-decision-could-help-boost-long-term-prosperity-of-growth-arc/) |

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

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

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

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 11/09 | Press release | REA | Zero Emissions Vehicle Summit an opportunity to further develop EV charging network. [Read here.](https://www.r-e-a.net/news/zero-emissions-vehicle-summit-an-opportunity-to-further-develop-ev-charging-network) |
| 11/09 | Press release | REA | REA welcomes governments’ investment in green vehicles, new batteries and low carbon technology. [Read here.](https://www.r-e-a.net/news/rea-welcomes-governments-investment-in-green-vehicles-new-batteries-and-low-carbon-technology) |
| 13/09 | Oral Answer | House of Commons | [Electric Vehicles](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-09-12/debates/A41D81F6-2467-4013-AAF4-F272BFA6FDFB/Engagements)Paul Blomfield (Sheffield Central) (Lab) Q9. The Prime Minister was right yesterday to be promoting electric vehicles, but she also needs to focus on electricity production. Investment in renewable energy has halved as a result of the Government's policies. Instead of encouraging carbon-emitting technologies such as fracking, which is deeply unpopular in Sheffield and across the country, will she recognise that our future depends on serious investment in wind, solar, tidal and other renewables?The Prime Minister I believe that in the provision of energy across the United Kingdom we need to have a diverse range of supplies. That is why, yes, we do, we have and we will continue to support renewable energy, but it is also why we are ensuring, for example, that we have a supply of energy in the future from nuclear and that we look across other forms of energy as well—for example, ensuring that we see an increase in the number of interconnectors with Europe . A diverse supply is what we need in our energy sector. |

**Transport – Rail**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 03/09 | Press release | Labour Party | Labour reveals Tory Rail Mayhem: Corbyn pledges to deliver Crossrail for the North as millions of passengers face overcrowding, delays and cancellations. [Read here.](https://labour.org.uk/press/labour-reveals-tory-rail-mayhem-corbyn-pledges-deliver-crossrail-north-millions-passengers-face-overcrowding-delays-cancellations/) |
| 05/09 | Press release | Labour Party | Tinkering won't change the fact that rail franchising has failed – McDonald. [Read here.](https://labour.org.uk/press/tinkering-wont-change-fact-rail-franchising-failed/) |
| 06/09 | Press release | Liverpool CR CA | Mayors Join Forces to Push for “Crossrail for the North”. [Read here.](http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/news/mayors-join-forces-to-push-for-%E2%80%9Ccrossrail-for-the-north%E2%80%9D) |
| 07/09 | Press release | Labour Party | Passengers should feel outraged that Govia Thameslink Railway’s failure is being rewarded - Rachael Maskell. [Read here.](https://labour.org.uk/press/passengers-feel-outraged-govia-thameslink-railways-failure-rewarded-rachael-maskell/) |
| 10/07 | Written Q&A | DCMS | [5G: Great Western Railway Line: Written question - 168112](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/168112)Asked by [**Luke Pollard**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/luke-pollard/4682)(Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport)Asked on: 24 July 2018To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, when he plans to publish proposals for 5G signal on the Great Western Mainline between Paddington and Penzance. Answered by: [**Margot James**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/margot-james/4115)Answered on: 10 September 20185G is an experimental technology that will be deployed by mobile network operators once it is commercially available. The Government recognises the importance of rail connectivity and wants to see high quality coverage where people live, work and travel. Wi-Fi equipment on railways will continue to be rolled out. The Government is also planning to run 5G trials that will support improvements to rail passenger connectivity in the UK. |
| 11/09 | Debate | HoC | Trans-Pennine Rail Travel and Delays. [Read here.](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-09-11/debates/08A55ABE-DD96-4C71-AB35-BCFB8E010928/Trans-PennineRailTravelAndDelays) |
| 13/09 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: Standards:Written question - 170781](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170781)Asked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if it his policy to maintain European Railway Agency rules in respect of specifications (a) on common track width and (b) uniform platform heights after the UK leaves the EU. Answered by: [**Chris Grayling**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/chris-grayling/1413) Answered on: 13 September 2018Once we have left the EU we intend to have the flexibility to shape our domestic railway legislation to reflect the unique characteristics of the rail network within the UK, which for example could include platform heights. While any divergence relating to technical specifications will be carefully managed and the impacts fully assessed, the precise nature of any future arrangements are still subject to negotiation. |
| 13/09 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Railways: North of England:Written question - 170867](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170867)Asked by [**Kate Hollern**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/kate-hollern/4363)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress is being made on plans for electrification of the trans-pennine railway line.Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039) Answered on: 13 September 2018We are working with Network Rail and Transport for the North to determine the best way to achieve major improvements for passengers on the Transpennine Route and will make further decisions on how this will be implemented later this year. |
| 13/09 | Press release | RIA | Rail Industry responds to news that HS2 will support 15,000 jobs in the next 18 months. [Read here.](https://www.riagb.org.uk/RIA/Newsroom/Press_Releases/HS2_to_support_15000_jobs.aspx) |
| 14/09 | Press release | DfT | £200 million Derby rail upgrade works to deliver more reliable services and tackle bottlenecks, says Rail Minister. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-derby-rail-upgrade-works-to-deliver-more-reliable-services-and-tackle-bottlenecks-says-rail-minister) |
| 14/09 | Press release | Northern Rail | Northern starts track-testing for next generation of new trains. [Read here.](https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/news/latest-news/2031-northern-starts-track-testing-for-next-generation-of-new-trains) |
| 17/09 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Network Rail: Bridges:Written question – 172423](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172423)Asked by [**John Spellar**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/john-spellar/318)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions his Department has had with Network Rail on the effect of Network Rail's policies on railway arches on small businesses that are tenants. Answered by: [**Joseph Johnson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joseph-johnson/4039) Answered onThe Department has had regular discussions with Network Rail about its commercial estate.On 10 September, Network Rail announced that it had agreed a £1.46bn sale with Telereal Trillium and Blackstone Property Partners for the sale of its commercial estate portfolio.Tenants’ existing rights have been safeguarded in this sale and current agreements between Network Rail and tenants will be fully honoured.The new owner has also agreed to a tenant charter including amongst other commitments to engage in an open and honest manner with their tenants and the community, ongoing transparency regarding publication of data on mix of tenants and the provision of an engagement officer. They have also undertaken to work with long-standing small business tenants that face financial pressure, including offering financial support. |
| 19/09 | Press release | DfT | Innovative ideas to transform UK rail in line to bid for millions in government grants. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovative-ideas-to-transform-uk-rail-in-line-to-bid-for-millions-in-government-grants) |
| 19/09 | Press release | Labour Party | Rail passengers don’t need another review from the Tories to tell them that rail is broken – McDonald. [Read here.](https://labour.org.uk/press/rail-passengers-dont-need-another-review-tories-tell-rail-broken-mcdonald/) |
| 20/09 | Press release | DfT | Government announces 'root and branch' review of rail. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-root-and-branch-review-of-rail) |
| 20/09 | Press release | BCC | BCC: rail review must bring tangible and visible improvements for passengers and business communities. [Read here.](https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/news/2018/09/bcc-rail-review-must-bring-tangible-and-visible-improvements-for-passengers-and-business-communities) |
| 20/09 | Press release | RMT | RMT on government's "independent" rail review. [Read here.](http://www.rmt.org.uk/news/rmt-on-governments-independent-rail-review/) |
| 20/09 | Press release | Northern Rail | Northern unveils first digital train. [Read here.](https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/news/latest-news/2038-northern-unveils-first-digital-train) |
| 24/09 | Written Q&A | DfT | [Gatwick Airport Station: Written question - HL10300](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-12/HL10300)Asked by Lord BradshawAsked on: 12 September 2018To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions, if any, they have had with Gatwick Express about proposals to re-develop Gatwick Airport railway station to manage congestion.Answered by: Baroness Sugg Answered on: 24 September 2018The Department for Transport is currently working with Network Rail, Gatwick Airport Ltd and other stakeholders to develop proposals for enhancing Gatwick Airport rail station in order to relieve pedestrian congestion at the station. As part of this work the Department and Network Rail have had numerous and ongoing discussions with Govia Thameslink Railway, the parent company of Gatwick Express. |
| 26/09 | Press release | Innovate UK | Cleaner and more efficient railways: apply for contracts. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cleaner-and-more-efficient-railways-apply-for-contracts) |

**Devolution deals**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 17/09 | Written Q&A | MHCLG | Devolution: Cheshire:Written question - 171679Asked by [**Justin Madders**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/justin-madders/4418)To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what his policy is on devolution in the Cheshire West and Chester local authority area. Answered by: [**Jake Berry**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/jake-berry/4060) Answered on: 17 September 2018The Government’s manifesto committed to providing clarity for areas across England on what devolution means for different administrations. We are looking at how to design a devolution framework that provides this for local areas and intend to set out our approach in the Autumn.As part of our work with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to develop Local Industrial Strategies, we are now working with the Cheshire and Warrington LEP as one of the next ‘wave’ of places developing ambitious proposals to drive growth across the region. |

**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 |
|  |  |  | No updates |

**Environment – Air Quality**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 04/09 | Press release | Ovo Energy | The household energy technologies that won’t cost the earth - how new tech is key to saving £billions while decarbonising. [Read here.](https://www.ovoenergy.com/binaries/content/assets/documents/pdfs/newsroom/the-household-energy-technologies-that-wont-cost-the-earth-how-new-tech-is-key-to-saving-gbpbillions-while-decarbonising.pdf) |

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

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 13/09 | Press release | DEFRA | Upholding environmental standards if there’s no Brexit deal. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/upholding-environmental-standards-if-theres-no-brexit-deal) |
| 20/09 | Press release | FBS | **Small firms increasingly pessimistic as Brexit talks reach crunch point.** [Read here.](https://www.fsb.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/small-firms-increasingly-pessimistic-as-brexit-talks-reach-crunch-point) |
| 20/09 | Press release | New Local Gov Network | What Would No Deal Mean For Councils? [Read here.](http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2018/what-would-no-deal-mean-for-councils/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+nlgn-general+%28NLGN+General+Feed%29) |
| 24/09 | Press release | BEIS | Generating low-carbon electricity if there’s no Brexit deal. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/generating-low-carbon-electricity-if-theres-no-brexit-deal) |